



U.S. COAST GUARD RESERVIST



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RESERVIST

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M.O.P.I.C.

THE COAST GUARD'S
MOTION PICTURE LIAISON OFFICE

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



MOPIC, REPOY and Sinbad!

As you read this, we're in the middle of the summer. Yeah for summer! I thought it was time to do something a little bit different — so, it's show time! Welcome to the “magazine's” visit to the United States Coast Guard Motion Picture and Television Office (MOPIC). Thanks to reservist PA1 Spring de Haviland and her hard work on the MOPIC cover story, as well as the stellar staff in California who work day in and day out to promote our Coast Guard on TV and film. Enjoy!

Taking another tack, congratulations to some real class acts — PS1 Joseph Gatto, this year's Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year, as well as our Sparks Award winner, MSO Houston-Galveston, Texas. Read about both on page 15.

You'll also find some pretty good information on the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) beginning on page 17. A small card with information about Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) has also been inserted.

Did you hear that the Coast Guard's famous Dog Sinbad is back? USCG Veteran Mike Walling has worked his magic to reproduce and have the Sinbad book reprinted. The info on this fun book is on page 35.

Welcome aboard to RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara, incoming Director of Reserve & Training. Fair winds to CAPT Louis Farrell, Chief, Office of Reserve Affairs, who retires on Coast Guard Day, Aug. 4, after 30-plus years of service. Best wishes to both of them. “Happy Coast Guard Day” and Semper Paratus to all!

-Ed.

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MOPIC

The Coast Guard's Motion Picture and Television Office, where the magic happens.



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Reserve News

REPOY, Sparks Award, Secretary Hall Visit to HQ, and an auxiliarist dies in Iraq.



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Book Review

It's been 60 years, but Sinbad of the Coast Guard is making a comeback — and they say cats have nine lives.

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The more you know...

This month, info on ESGR, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and USERRA.

Retirement Issue

After 24 years service, I embarrassed that I don't recognize half the decorations on the cover of the retirement issue. Next issue, would you identify these insignias, medals-top to bottom; left to right? Thank you.

— MKC John T. Bell, USCGR(Ret.)
Indialantic, Fla.

First of all, thank you for a wonderful Reservist magazine — Retirement Issue. I will be forced out in another three years and I found it very informative and helpful. Where did you find the shadow box displayed on the front cover and can they be purchased somewhere?

— Brendan Kerin, CGIS NW Region
Seattle, Wash.

Ed's note: The Retirement cover "Shadow Box" is the creation of our graphic's editor, Chris Rose (former PA2 in the CGR). Badges and medals are as follows (from upper left to bottom right): OIC Ashore, Boat Force Operations Insignia, Meritorious Service, Joint Service Commendation, CG Commendation, 9/11, CG Achievement, Good Conduct, chief petty officer anchor, Coxswain Insignia, PSU Insignia, CGR Good Conduct, National Defense Service, Humanitarian Service, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service, Armed Forces Reserve, Expert Pistol, senior chief petty officer anchors. Shadowboxes can be found at a variety of places: on-line (try any search Web site under "shadowboxes"), in CG Exchanges and they're often advertised in the Coast Guard Chief magazine. A few Coast Guardsmen custom make them — you just have to ask around.

I would first like to congratulate you on an excellent Retirement Issue. With my Ret-2 coming up this year, I found it incredibly helpful. I did, however, want to point out a small error that I came across, just for future reference. In Section II, Figuring Your Points, (page 20) example number two gives a maximum of 75 points allowed for any given anniversary year. That number was increased to 90 (see section 8.C.4.b of the RPM) beginning with the AY that includes Oct. 30, 2000. I only caught it because, as Career Development Advisor, a part of my presentation includes the Reserve and also how the Retirement Points/ Points Statement works. Again, thanks for all the great information about retirement. I always enjoy reading The Reservist, but this issue was absolutely tops!

— YNC Maureen A. Kidd, USCGR
Mentor, Ohio

Just read the latest issue (The Retirement Issue) and wanted to pass the following web site along from the Air Force Reserve Personnel Center. It contains a program that allows you to plug points and certain dates and it will give it a print out of retirement pay in current year dollars with and without RCSBP. It looks as if it is set up for units. It is updated with each pay raise. The Web site is:

<http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/dpspe/calculator.htm>

— CAPT Paul Kirkpatrick, USCGR(Ret.)
Titusville, Fla.



In Awe of Professional CGR Program

I was the YN for the Camp Blanding evolution during Operation Desert Storm/Shield, during my MLC LANT tour on Governors Island. I had the pleasure of meeting and working with hard-chargers like then-CDR (now RADM retired) Tim Riker and his then "tri-command" (three O-5's).

I am in awe of how professional and well organized the Coast Guard Reserve program has become. I come across many young people who are looking to the military for a career, especially when in uniform. Most take me for being in the Air Force but when they see my nametag they seem to immediately want to know more about the Coast Guard. I always ask them to give the Coast Guard Reserve a good,

hard look before checking out any other services including the active duty Coast Guard. Their current "real-time/world" civilian experience coupled with their military background seems to give them a steadier, more consistent and mentoring attitude towards their job which is immediately reflected in the people skills arena. I can use no better example than YNCM James Davidson, a State Department Foreign Service Officer who's traveled the world and then brings along 30 years of military experience to the table.

Finally, the Coast Guard PSUs are without question almost a national secret. They are a motivated and obviously well trained group of professionals who I'd go to combat with any day. I'd one day like to see them and maybe MSSTs share foreign embassy protection with the Marine Corps and State Department security forces. These types of missions are certainly attractive to today's high energy, adrenaline driven youth of America and should be as highly visible and publicly promoted as possible. It would help shape a "new" image of the Coast Guard of being more forward deployed than in the past. It would allow the public to see that the Coast Guard is indeed a part of the national security fabric of the United States.

The Coast Guard Reserve is indeed forging the way ahead for the overall Coast Guard family. Semper P!

— YN1 Michael Liburd, USCG
International Affairs Staff, Washington, D.C.

Recruiting Web Site

The U.S. Coast Guard Reserve is always looking for a few more good men and women. I just came across the Recruiting Web site for the Coast Guard on the Internet and thought others would like to see it (www.gocoastguard.com).

I was proud to have served with the Coast Guard for 21 years and I would recommend it as a great experience and greatly needed service in our Country.

— PAC Ron Cabral, USCGR (Ret.)
San Francisco, Calif.



Coast Guard is Fifth Armed Service

The Marianas Variety editorial section published a letter (March 25, 2005) responding to a Coastie who inquired as to why the USCG flag was not flown at the American Memorial Park in Saipan along with the other DOD services. A U.S. Army sergeant wrote the letter claiming the Coast Guard flag wasn't flown because it wasn't part of the Department of Defense, and therefore, not a military service. In addition, he claimed that the Coast Guard was not in the line of fire during times of war and insinuated that we didn't deserve to be recognized with the other services.

To clarify some of the questions surrounding this issue, and to educate those not already familiar with the Coast Guard's history, consider the following. The United States Code of Federal Regulations, Title 14, Part 1, Chapter 1, Section 1, states, "The Coast Guard as established January 28, 1915, shall be a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times. The Coast Guard shall be a service in the Department of Homeland Security, except when operating as a service in the Navy." To interpret this already self-explanatory code, the Coast Guard is a military service and a branch of the armed forces at ALL times — that is the law!

As for the Coast Guard's service in wartime, the U.S. Marines and Navy know all too well the history of the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard has been in every major U.S. conflict since the Revolutionary War. In the Quasi-War with France from 1797-1801, Revenue Cutters captured 10 French ships near the West Indies. During the War of 1812, A Revenue Cutter captured the first British vessel of the war. During the Seminole Wars (1836-1842), eight Revenue Cutters supported Army and Navy operations. During World War I, on the evening of Sept. 26, 1918, the CGC Tampa was proceeding toward the port of Milford Haven, Wales, when it was attacked and sunk by a German U-Boat. None of the 111 Coast Guard crewmen survived.

During World War II, Greenland was incorporated into a hemispheric defense system. The Coast Guard was the primary military service responsible for these cold-weather operations. Early in the war, the CGC Northland took into "protective custody" the Norwegian trawler Boskoe and captured three German radiomen ashore. Boskoe was the United States' first captured vessel of World War II. Coast Guard-manned ships sank at least 11 enemy submarines. Coast Guard personnel manned amphibious ships and craft from the largest troop transports to the smallest attack craft. They landed Army and Marine forces in every important invasion in North Africa, Italy, France and the Pacific. Two hundred and thirty one thousand men and 10,000 women served in the Coast Guard during World War II. Of these, 1,918 died, a third losing their life in action. One Coast Guardsman died as a prisoner of war, having been captured at Corregidor. Almost 2,000 Coast Guardsmen were decorated, six with the Navy Cross, and one the Distinguished Service Cross. The U.S. Marines will never forget Douglas Munro, who received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions in saving Marines against heavy enemy fire at Guadalcanal.

During the Vietnam War, the Coast Guard performed a variety of duties. At the outset of the military buildup in the mid-1960s, the Navy lacked shallow watercraft needed for inshore operations. To help fill this need, the Coast Guard sent 26 Point Class 82-foot cutters to Vietnam. These cutters spent some 70 percent of their time underway. They inspected junks for contraband, intercepted and destroyed North Vietnamese and Viet Cong craft, and provided fire support for friendly forces. Some 8,000 Coast Guardsmen served in Vietnam. Seven lost their lives (visit the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C. and you'll find their names) and 59 were wounded.



Although research is incomplete, it has been verified that through 1970, Coast Guardsmen received the following awards: 12 Silver Stars, 13 Legion of Merit medals, 13 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 114 Bronze Stars, four Air Medals, 151 Navy Commendation Medals, 27 Army Commendation Medals, five Coast Guard Commendation Medals, 43 Navy Achievement Medals, 66 Purple Hearts, 53 Vietnamese Navy medals and 15 Presidential Unit Commendations.

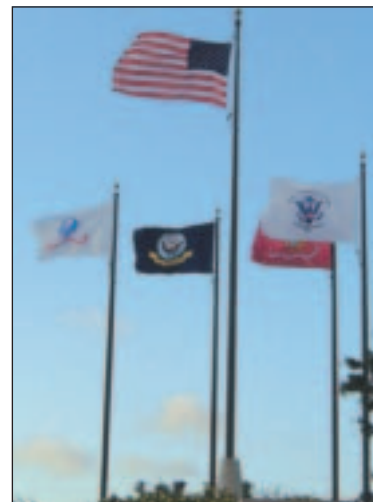
On Aug. 17, 1990, at the request of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Transportation, the Commandant of the Coast Guard committed Coast Guard law enforcement boarding teams [LEDETs] to Operation Desert Shield. A total of 10 four-person teams served in theatre to support the enforcement of UN sanctions by the Maritime Interdiction Forces. Approximately 60 percent of the 600 boardings carried out by U.S. forces were either led by or supported with the USCG LEDETs. Additionally, a seven-man liaison staff was designated by the Commandant as Operational Commander for the USCG forces deployed in theatre. The first boarding of an Iraqi vessel in the theatre of operations conducted by a USCG LEDET occurred Aug. 30, 1990. On Aug. 22, 1990, the president authorized the call up of three port security units (PSUs), consisting of 550 Coast Guard Reservists ordered to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Shield (more than 1,600 CG Reservists served on active duty during the Persian Gulf War).

Again, early in 2003, Coast Guard units deployed to Southwest Asia in support of the US-led coalition engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom. At the height of operations, there were 1,250 Coast Guard personnel deployed, including about 500 reservists. This included two large cutters, a buoy tender, eight patrol boats, four port security units, law enforcement detachments and support staff to the Central (CENTCOM) and European (EUCOM) Command theaters of operation.

The legacy of the people who served in the U.S. Coast Guard of those early days and the Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty of U.S. Coast Guardsmen of today should leave no doubt about the contribution of the Coast Guard to the defense efforts of our country. Although the U.S. Coast Guard is not a member of the Department of Defense, by law, it is the fifth armed service.

— LTJG Greg Peck, USCGR
Springfield, Va.

Ed's note: Thanks to the efforts of Coasties in the Marianas, the USCG flag now flies proudly, prominently, and permanently at Flag Circle, American Memorial Park in Saipan along with the other U.S. service flags (see photos this page)!




Photos courtesy CAPT Dale Rausch, USCGR



NEW YORK, N.Y. (July 7, 2005) — Petty Officer 3rd Class Nicholas Poklemba from Coast Guard Station New York inspects the Staten Island Ferry as it departs Manhattan, July 7, 2005. The Coast Guard and federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies have increased their presence around the Port of New York and New Jersey following the early morning bombings in London, U.K.
USCG Photo by PAC Robert Laura, USCGR





CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (June 24, 2005) —
LTJG Jeanine McIntosh is the first African
American female in the Coast Guard to become
an aviator during a ceremony at Naval Air
Station Corpus Christi, Texas.
USCG Photo by PA2 Andrew Kendrick, USCG





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ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (June 15, 2005) — SN Keith Ferguson examines the hull for missed spots atop the anchor while repainting the CGC Venturous. The entire cutter was painted in preparation for a Change of Command in June.

USCG Photo by PA3 Beth Reynolds, USCGR

NEW YORK, N.Y. (May 2005) — Nicholas Prata of West Caldwell, N.J. goes nose to nose with Mynx, an explosives detection dog from the Marine Safety & Security Team, N.Y., while her handler, Petty Officer Rick Hodges, looks on.
USCG Photo by PAC Robert Laura, USCGR







By
RDML
John C. Acton,
USCGR

Deputy
Commander,
Mobilization &
Reserve Component
Affairs, USCG
Atlantic Area

**“...Leadership
can come from
many sources.
It can come
from the formal
power afforded
by a specific
billet or title, or
it can come
from the
informal power
afforded by
experience,
technical
expertise or
simply force of
personality.”**

Is There a Leader Inside of You?

Leadership has always been, and remains, central to the success of both the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve. So it was when I sailed in CGC Glacier in 1976, and so it will be when some of you board a new Deepwater port security boat in 2020.

You Might Be “Old Guard” If...

You may be “Old Guard” if you can recall the fairly robust Reserve force structure we had in place in the 1970s to 1990s, consisting largely of separate and parallel reserve units at Groups, MSOs and Stations. At that time, each reserve unit had its own CO, XO, Admin Officer and Training Officer billets, providing a formal reserve command structure. In the mid-1990s, integration of these reserve units into the active duty units did away with the separate reserve units. Integration did not, however, eliminate leadership opportunities.

As you know, leadership can come from many sources. It can come from the formal power afforded by a specific billet or title, or it can come from the informal power afforded by experience, technical expertise or simply force of personality. As you gain experience and rise in the Coast Guard, there is an implicit expectation that you will use your evolving leadership skills (whether formal or informal) and experience to the betterment of your service, your unit, and your shipmates.

Formal Opportunities

Since integration some 10 years ago, we’ve had limited formal command positions for officers and senior enlisted personnel. In fact, the Command Ashore pin is currently only authorized for reserve COs of Port Security Units and Joint Reserve Units (JRUs) at DOD Unified Commands. That is unlikely to change.

The number of formal leadership positions, however, is likely to change...and soon. As you may know, an initiative is already well underway to bring all Coast Guard units located within a port geography under a new, single command structure called a Sector. Sector organization charts include a Senior Reserve Officer who reports directly to the Sector Commander, as well as a senior reserve enlisted billet (E8 or E9) on the Readiness, Planning and Execution staff. For now, since initial Sector organizations do not provide for Command Master Chiefs on either the active or reserve side, this senior enlisted member will serve in an advisory role regarding Sector reserve enlisted issues. If, at a later date, Command Master Chief positions are established at the Sectors, we will be in position to establish one for the Reserve force, as well.

These will be key leadership billets that I hope all of our junior personnel, both officer and enlisted, will aspire to.

Informal Opportunities and Personal Leadership

Informal leadership opportunities have always existed, and still do. The widespread difficulties encountered during the historic recall of nearly 70 percent of our Reserve force to support post-9/11 operations, including Operation Iraqi Freedom, were only partly due to issues with systems and processes. A substantial factor in the pain of that recall was a failure of personal leadership within the Reserve force. We failed ourselves and it must not happen again.

The essence of personal leadership is leadership by example, which is usually a matter of individual initiative and applies to anyone who wears our uniform, regardless of rank or rate. It is important. My expectations for personal leadership are that each of you:

- Are prepared to report for duty:
 - You’re physically fit (medical and dental) and meet weight standards (I’d like to see a mandatory Physical Fitness Test [PT] required at least annually).
 - You have the proper uniforms in good repair.
 - Your Annual Screening Questionnaire (ASQ) is correct and current.
 - Your OERs and marks are timely and current.
- Attend your drills as scheduled:
 - You can’t maintain your quals if you don’t drill.
- Focus on training to maintain your mobilization quals while at drill:
 - For mobilization, we have arduous training requirements and it’s critical that we use our limited drill periods efficiently.
 - For example, we may need a full eight hours or more of training on Saturday and Sunday, and perhaps will not credit members with a drill for time that does not include actual training.

My point is, our country will likely be attacked again and it’s our duty to defend her. It’s what we do. Since we don’t know when the attack may come, we must prepare now. And your personal leadership...getting yourself squared away and “good to go”...is critical to the readiness of the Reserve force to mobilize.

Gatto named 2004 Reserve Enlisted Person of Year

BOSTON — PS1 Joseph P. Gatto is this year's national Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year. Gatto, the First Coast Guard District nominee, is from Sector Boston.

During the past year, Gatto was an integral and valued member of Sector Boston Reserve Port Security Division. He provided in-depth law enforcement training to both active duty and reserve personnel. He also participated in over 80 high interest and random port security boardings on vessels such as Liquefied Natural Gas Tankers, Petroleum Tankers, and Commuter Vessels. These operations were often conducted outside normal work hours and in harsh environmental conditions, which required a high degree of skill and stamina. His eagerness to assume additional responsibilities led him to obtain the facility inspector qualifications.

In addition, Gatto used his knowledge from his civilian occupation as a Captain with the U.S. Federal Reserve Police to greatly enhance unit training.

Gatto enlisted in the USCGR in response to the 9/11 attack. He says there were two events that changed him personally and professionally — the USMC bombing in Beirut in 1983 and the 9/11 attacks. He had just entered into the Marine Corps Reserve when the bombing of the Marine corps



PS1 Joseph P. Gatto

barracks occurred and he was activated.

"I lost many good friends that died in that peace keeping mission," said Gatto. "I stayed in the Marines until 1989 and was not called back to my unit during the first Gulf War."

After the 9/11 attacks, Gatto felt he had to do something in addition to preparing and training Federal law enforcement officers.

"I had to jump into this fight for the sake of my family, my city (Boston) and our country," said Gatto. "I lost a lot of good friends in the planes and in the World Trade Center towers. My friends died that morning for one reason only — because they were American. I entered the USCGR approximately one year after the attacks, went to REBI, and was activated for 14 months."

Gatto gives freely of his time by coaching girls' soccer, youth football and wrestling. He is married to Maureen and they have two children.

He was honored during June in Washington, D.C. along with the active duty Enlisted Person of the Year, DC2 Daniel A. Tritt of CGC Elm (WLB 304);

Ms. Jenny Moore, Appropriated Fund Civilian Employee of the Year, National Pollution Funds Center; and Ms. Julieta Heselton, of ISC Portsmouth, non-appropriated fund Civilian Employee of the Year. See ALCOAST 265/05 for more information.

Sparks Award Goes to MSO Houston-Galveston

HOUSTON — MSO Houston-Galveston has been selected as the recipient of the 2004 RADM Bennett S. "Bud" Sparks Award. This award is presented annually by the Reserve Officers Association of the United States. It is given to the active command judged to be the most supportive of a totally integrated Coast Guard force, especially by its effective use of Coast Guard Reservists.

MSO Houston-Galveston, in addition to excellent readiness indicators, demonstrated a superb commitment to integration by incorporating reservists into every facet of the unit. Each reservist is assigned a reserve officer and a chief as team leaders to assist them in managing IDT/ADT, required qualifications, training, evaluations, etc. The unit issued LE and boat crew gear and stowage lockers to reservists and held BTM/BO training and recertifications, as well as weapons and boat crew training on the weekends to ensure

reservists were properly trained for mobilization. The command actively focused on improving reserve readiness by tracking and improving compliance with dental/medical exams, IDT and ADT

participation, and completion of the required Annual Screening Questionnaire. These, along with multiple other efforts taken to integrate MSO Houston-Galveston's Reserve element into the active duty, are what made the unit especially outstanding in the judgment of the selection panel.

Other outstanding units nominated included: MSO Providence, Station Fort Myers Beach, MSO Buffalo, CG Sector San Diego, Sector Guam, and ISC Alameda.

Representatives of MSO Houston-Galveston will be presented with the award at the Reserve Officers Association Annual Convention in New York City in late July. For more info, see ALCOAST 341/05. MSO Houston-Galveston's Web site: www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/hougal/



Coast Guard Auxiliary Member Dies in Iraq

YACUINA BAY, Ore. — A young Army private is the first known Coast Guard Auxiliarist to be killed during the current military operations in Iraq.

Pfc. Kevin Scott Wessel, 20, of Newport, Ore., died April 19 in Baghdad when a car bomb detonated near him while he was on foot patrol, according to the U.S. Defense Department. Spc. Jacob Pfister, 27, of Buffalo, N.Y., also was killed by the improvised explosive device.

Wessel was a member of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 69 in Yaquina Bay.

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski asked that flags be flown at half-staff April 25 in honor of Wessel.

"It is sad to hear of the death of another soldier from Oregon," Kulongoski said in a statement. "We are seeing once again that war is taking a heavy toll on our nation's service men and women, as well as their families and friends."

Flotilla 69 members say Wessel moved from Hawaii to Oregon after graduating from high school in 2003. He dreamed of becoming a Coast Guard surfman at Station Yaquina Bay and decided to join the flotilla in the meantime.

LeOra Johnson, who was flotilla commander at the time Wessel expressed interest in joining, recalls he took the New Member Examination just one day after he received the Auxiliary's Resource Guide and voluminous Manual.

"He had read them cover to cover the night before," said Johnson. "He took the exam, passing it with a perfect score."

Flotilla members say Wessel was a quick study, partly because he had undergone extensive training with the Sea Cadets in Hawaii.

Johnson says Wessel participated in area familiarization missions and that "his physical condition and endurance was extraordinary."

As reports from Iraq came in, flotilla members noted that Wessel talked about wanting to go there and do his part.

"He said he tried to enlist in the Coast Guard, but there was a two-year wait at that time before he would be called up," Johnson recalls. "However, he wanted to go now."

After speaking with an Army recruiter and being told the Army would take him right away, Wessel enlisted.

After being deployed to Iraq, Wessel maintained contact via e-mail with his Flotilla members back in Oregon.

"His messages were so descriptive, we could almost feel as though we were there with him," said Johnson. "When his e-mail messages suddenly stopped, we thought and hoped perhaps he was on a mission where he didn't have internet



Photo courtesy Ed Sweeney, USCG Auxiliary

Private First Class and CG Auxiliary member, Kevin Scott Wessel

access. Sadly, that was not the case."

Race Morningstar, a former Coast Guardsman and current Auxiliary member from Alsea, Ore., says Wessel was "really gung-ho. He was just willing to go out and do things." Morningstar added that Wessel "was a hell of a kid. He would have turned into a hell of a man."

Johnson says that Wessel was "where he wanted to be, doing what he wanted to do; he felt he could make a difference."

Wessel and Pfister, the other soldier killed in the attack, were both assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division based in Fort Stewart, Ga.

Services were held for Pfc. Wessel at Nuuanu Baptist Church in Honolulu April 30. Interment was at the Punchbowl Cemetery in Honolulu.

— *By Mr. Ed Sweeney, USCG Auxiliary*



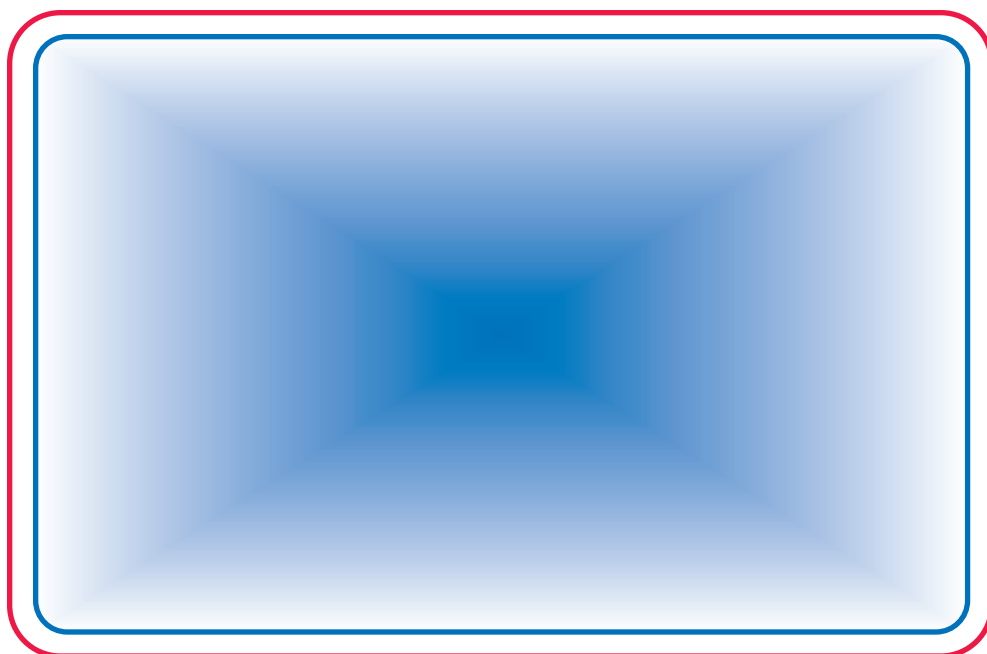
Photo by PA1 Barry Lane, USCG

Secretary Hall Visits HQ...

The Honorable Thomas F. Hall, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, right, visits with USCG officers during his visit to CG Headquarters May 18. Left to right: CAPT Louis Farrell, Chief, Office of Reserve Affairs; VADM Terry Cross, Vice Commandant; RADM Kenneth T. Venuto, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources; Mr. Craig Duehring, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, and Secretary Hall.



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A REVIEW OF THE SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT (SCRA)

By LCDR Craig Henzel, USCGR

In these difficult times, we have many reserve and active duty servicemembers serving our country both home and abroad. Whether preparing to deploy or returning home, this article may help ease the transition as it explains some of the additional protections afforded to you under law.

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) is a federal statute passed by Congress to allow military members to suspend or postpone some civil obligations so that the military member can devote his or her full attention to military duties. The original Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA) was passed during World War I. The statute was reenacted during World War II, and was recently revised to include greater protections and rights for servicemembers. The SCRA was signed into law Dec. 19, 2003 as Public Law 108-189, and can be found at 50 United States Code Appendix Sections 501-593.

Who Does It Protect?

The SCRA is designed to protect active duty military members, reservists who are in active federal service, and National Guardsmen who are in active federal service. Some of the benefits under the SCRA extend to dependents of active duty military members as well.

What Kind of Relief Can It Provide?

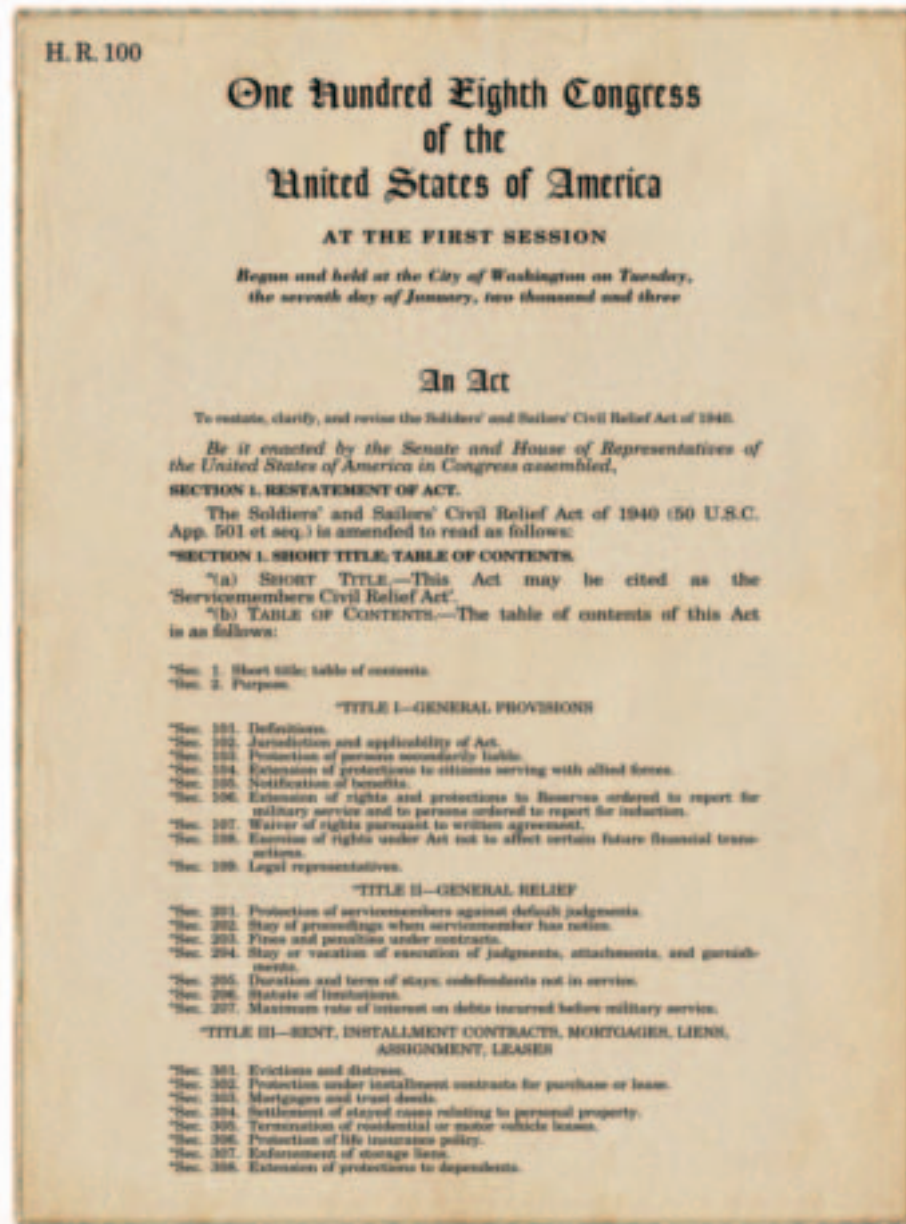
The SCRA can provide many forms of relief to military members. Below are some of the most common forms of relief.

1. Six percent Cap on Interest Rates:

Under the SCRA, a military member can cap the interest rate at six percent for all obligations entered into before beginning active duty if the military service materially affects his or her ability to meet the obligations. This can include interest rates on credit cards, mortgages, and even some student loans (except for Federal guaranteed student loans), to name a few. To qualify for the interest rate cap the military member has to show that he or she is now on active duty, that the obligation or debt was incurred prior to entry on active duty, and that military service materially affects the members' ability to pay. To begin the process, the military member needs to send a letter along with a copy of current military orders to the lender requesting relief under the SCRA. The interest rate cap lasts for the duration of active duty service. The interest rate cap will apply from the first date of active-duty service. The military member must provide written notice to the creditor and a copy of military orders not later than 180 days after the Servicemembers termination or release from military service.

2. Stay of Proceedings:

If you are served with a complaint indicating you are being sued for some reason, you can obtain a "stay" or postponement of those proceedings if your military service materially affects your ability to proceed in the case. A



stay can be used to stop the action altogether, or to hold up some phase of it. According to the SCRA, you can request a “stay” during any stage of the proceedings. However, the burden is on you, the military member, to show that your military service has materially affected your ability to appear in court. In general, you can request a stay of the proceedings for a reasonable period of time (30-60 days). For example, if you are being sued for divorce, you can put off the hearing for some period of time, but it is unlikely that a court will allow you to put off the proceedings indefinitely. The stay can be granted in administrative proceedings.

3. Default Judgments:

A default judgment is entered against a party who has failed to defend against a claim that has been brought by another party. To obtain a default judgment, a plaintiff must file an affidavit (written declaration of fact) stating that the defendant is not in the military service and has not requested a stay. If you are sued while on active duty, you fail to respond, and as a result, a default judgment is obtained against you, you can reopen the default judgment by taking several steps. First, you must show that the judgment was entered during your military service or within 30 days after you’ve left the service. Second, you must write to the court requesting that the default judgment be reopened while you are still on active duty or within 90 days of leaving the service. Third, you must not have made any kind of appearance in court, through filing an answer or otherwise, prior to the default judgment being entered. Finally, you must indicate that your military service prejudiced your ability to defend your case and show that you had a valid defense to the action against you.

4. Protection From Eviction:

If you are leasing a house or apartment and your rent is below a certain amount, the SCRA can protect you from being evicted for a period of time, usually three months. The dwelling place must be occupied by either the active duty member or his or her dependents and the rent on the premises cannot exceed \$2,400 a month in 2003 and this rent ceiling is adjusted annually for consumer price index (CPI) changes. In 2004, the amount of the rent ceiling was \$2,465, while the rate for 2005 is \$2,534.32. Additionally, the military member must show that military service materially affects his or her ability to pay rent. If a landlord continues to try to evict the military member or does actually evict the member, he or she is subject to criminal sanctions such as fines or even imprisonment. However, if you feel that you are in this situation, don’t just stop paying rent and wait three months. Come in and talk to a legal assistance attorney.

5. Termination of Pre-Service Residential Leases:

The SCRA also allows military members who are just entering active duty service to lawfully terminate a lease without repercussions. To do this, the service member needs to show that the lease was entered into prior to the commencement of active duty service, that the lease was signed by or on behalf of the service member, and that the service member is currently in military service or was called to active-duty service for a period of 180 days or more. Proper written notice with a copy of orders must be provided to the landlord.

6. Termination of Residential Leases During Military Service:

The SCRA allows military members who receive permanent change of station (PCS) orders or are deployed for a period of 90 days or more to terminate a lease by providing written notice to the landlord along with a copy of the military orders. The termination of a lease that provides for monthly payment of rent will occur 30 days after the first date on which the next rental payment is due and payable after the landlord receives proper written notice.

7. Mortgages:

The SCRA can also provide temporary relief from paying your mortgage. To obtain relief, a military member must show that their mortgage was entered into prior to beginning active duty, that the property was owned prior to entry into military service, that the property is still owned by the military member, and that military service materially affects the member’s ability to pay the mortgage.

8. Termination of Automobile Leases During Military Service:

The SCRA allows military members to terminate pre-service automobile leases if they are called up for military service of 180 days or longer. Members who sign automobile leases while on active-duty may be able to terminate an automobile lease if they are given orders for a permanent change of station outside the continental United States or to deploy with a military unit for a period of 180 days or longer.

9. Life Insurance: Increases the amount of life insurance that qualifies for protection against cancellation for non-payment of premiums under the Act from \$10,000 to \$250,000 (or the maximum of SGLI coverage, whichever is higher);

For More Info...

As you can see, the SCRA can be a big help to military members in times of need. In fact, the United States Supreme Court has declared that the Act must be read with “an eye friendly to those who dropped their affairs to answer their country’s call.” The SCRA actually provides many more protections than those listed here and most, if not all, of the terms in the law have very specific meanings and limitations that could not be fully explored in this article. Legal assistance attorneys are trained in consumer, family, and tax law matters and can assist in interpreting the provisions and application of this law. If you think that you may qualify for protection under the SCRA, you should contact a military legal assistance office to talk with an attorney about your situation. Your nearest legal assistance office can be found at http://www.uscg.mil/la/find_a_lawyer.htm. For HQ assigned personnel, contact the HQ legal assistance office at (202) 267-0115.

Note: *Much of the material used in this article was obtained from handbooks, pocket guides, messages and articles from the following sources: JOHN S. ODOM, JR. (Colonel, USAFR); GREGORY M. HUCKABEE (Associate Professor of Business Law, University of South Dakota); and KEVIN FLOOD (CAPTAIN, JAGC, USNR, Retired).*

Table of Significant Changes to the SCRA

SCRA §	SSCRA	Section Heading	Change
511	511	Definitions	ADDED definition of "dependent" to include the servicemember's spouse, child, or individual receiving more than 50 percent of support from the servicemember.
511	511	Definitions	MODIFIED the definition of "court" to include administrative agencies.
518	518	Exercise of Rights Under Act Not to Affect Certain Future Financial Transactions	ADDED protection against credit reporting agency identifying a servicemember as a member of the National Guard or a reserve component as a result of exercising SCRA rights.
518	518	Exercise of Rights Under Act Not to Affect Certain Future Financial Transactions	ADDED protection from a change in terms offered or conditions required for the issuance of insurance as a result of exercising SCRA rights.
521	520	Protection of Servicemembers Against Default Judgments	MODIFIED standard for granting a stay of proceedings when the military servicemember-defendant has not received notice. If the defendant is in military service and has not received notice of the pending suit, the Court must grant a stay of proceedings for a minimum of 90 days. Formerly, the Court could but was not required to grant a stay.
521	520	Protection of Servicemembers Against Default Judgments	EXTENDED to 60 days (formerly 30 days) time following termination of service in which a default judgment may be challenged. If a default judgment is entered during military service or within 60 days thereafter, the servicemember may request the court reopen the judgment.
522	521	Stay of Proceedings When Service member Has Notice	EXTENDED to 90 days (formerly 60 days) time following termination of service in which a military servicemember-defendant who has received notice may request a stay of proceedings. Court must grant a stay of at least 90 days provided certain conditions are met.
524	523	Stay of Vacation of Execution of Judgments, Attachments, and Garnishments	EXTENDED to 90 days (formerly 60 days) time following termination of service in which a military servicemember may request a stay of execution of a judgment, order, attachment, or garnishment.
527	526	Maximum Rate of Interest on Debts Incurred Before Military Service	CLARIFIED interest in excess of six percent on affected debts is forgiven, disallowed acceleration of principal, and created procedures for notifying creditors.
531	530	Evictions and Distress	INCREASED monthly rental limit for eviction protection from \$1,200 to \$2,400, indexed this rate for inflation (\$2,465 for year 2004, \$2,534.32 for year 2005), and added provision granting relief for premises contracted but not yet occupied. Formerly, only premises that were occupied as a residence qualified.
535	534	Termination of Residential or Motor Vehicle Leases	ADDED provision allowing termination of residential leases entered into while in military service upon receipt of permanent change of station or deployment orders for a period of 90 days or more. Formerly only leases executed prior to entering military service were covered.
535	534	Termination of Residential or Motor Vehicle Leases	ADDED provision allowing termination of motor vehicle leases by an individual ordered to military service for more than 180 days or by a military servicemember upon receipt of orders for a permanent change of station outside the continental United States or to deploy for 180 days or more.
542	541	Insurance Rights and Protections	CHANGED maximum amount of insurance protected from \$10,000 to \$250,000.
571	574	Residence for Tax Purposes	ADDED provision preventing states from including military income to determine state marginal income tax rate imposed on non-military income.
593	592	Professional Liability Protection	ADDED legal services to list of services eligible for suspension of coverage. Formerly, this provision listed "health-care services or other services determined by the Secretary of Defense to be professional services" and mobilization orders had to specify that legal services were considered professional services.

SCRA Checklist

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) protects persons serving on active duty from adverse consequences to their legal rights that may result from such service. Some SCRA protections apply to reservists and guardsmen called to serve on active duty. Other protections apply to members who have always been on active duty while some protections apply to military dependents.

This checklist will assist legal practitioners in ascertaining if specific protections apply to you. If so, you must take action either before or during your activation to be afforded some protections, while other protections allow you to take action within 30 to 180 days after completing an active duty assignment.

✓ CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- ☐ **Administrative or Court Proceeding:** Are you involved in an administrative proceeding of any kind or a civil court case that you wish to postpone while serving on active duty or within 90 days after completing an active duty assignment?
- ☐ **Automobile Lease:** Do you wish to terminate an automobile lease that was entered into before: (1) being called to active duty for a period of 180 or more days; or (2) receiving orders for a permanent change of duty station outside the U.S.; or (3) from a state outside CONUS to a state outside that state or (4) deploying with a military unit for 180 days or more?
- ☐ **Rental Lease:** Do you wish to terminate a rental lease that was entered into before: (1) being called to active duty; (2) receiving

orders for a permanent change of duty station; (3) deploying with a military unit for 90 day or more; or (4) separating or retiring from the military?

- ☐ **Contracts:** Is a creditor threatening to terminate an installment contract for the purchase, lease or bailment of real or personal property, such as an automobile, that you entered into before serving on active duty?
- ☐ **Eviction:** Are you or your dependents being threatened with eviction from your primary residence while serving on active duty?
- ☐ **Foreclosures and Forced Sales:** Is a mortgagor or lien holder attempting to foreclose a mortgage or enforce a lien on property you acquired before serving on active duty?
- ☐ **Interest Rates:** On purchases you made before serving on active duty, are you paying an interest rate of over six percent — including credit cards and mortgages but not student loans?
- ☐ **Insurance:** Are you having difficulty paying private professional, health or life insurance premiums, or has your insurance been terminated, while on active duty?
- ☐ **Judgments:** Has a court judgment been entered against you while on active duty, or do you anticipate that a judgment might be entered against you while on active duty?
- ☐ **State & Federal Income Taxes:** Are you having difficulty paying income taxes while on active duty? Are you paying state taxes based on your military income or other property, such as a car, to a state other than your home state of legal residency?



YOUR RIGHTS UNDER USERRA

THE UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT

USERRA protects the job rights of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to undertake military service. USERRA also prohibits employers from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services, and applicants to the uniformed services.

REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

You have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job if you leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and:

- ☆ you ensure that your employer receives advance written or verbal notice of your service;
- ☆ you have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer;
- ☆ you return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and
- ☆ you have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

If you are eligible to be reemployed, you must be restored to the job and benefits you would have attained if you had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job.

RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION

If you:

- ☆ are a past or present member of the uniformed service;
- ☆ have applied for membership in the uniformed service; or
- ☆ are obligated to serve in the uniformed service;

then an employer may not deny you any of the following because of this status:

- ☆ initial employment;
- ☆ reemployment;
- ☆ retention in employment;
- ☆ promotion; or
- ☆ any benefit of employment.

In addition, an employer may not retaliate against anyone assisting in the enforcement of USERRA rights, including testifying or making a statement in connection with a proceeding under USERRA, even if that person has no service connection.

HEALTH INSURANCE PROTECTION

- ☆ If you leave your job to perform military service, you have the right to elect to continue your existing employer-based health plan coverage for you and your dependents for up to 24 months while in the military.
- ☆ Even if you don't elect to continue coverage during your military service, you have the right to be reinstated in your employer's health plan when you are reemployed, generally without any waiting periods or exclusions (e.g., pre-existing condition exclusions) except for service-connected illnesses or injuries.

ENFORCEMENT

- ☆ The U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of USERRA violations.
- ☆ For assistance in filing a complaint, or for any other information on USERRA, contact VETS at **1-866-4-USA-DOL** or visit its **website at <http://www.dol.gov/vets>**. An interactive online USERRA Advisor can be viewed at <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm>.
- ☆ If you file a complaint with VETS and VETS is unable to resolve it, you may request that your case be referred to the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel, depending on the employer, for representation.
- ☆ You may also bypass the VETS process and bring a civil action against an employer for violations of USERRA.

The rights listed here may vary depending on the circumstances. This notice was prepared by VETS, and may be viewed on the internet at this address: <http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/poster.pdf>. Federal law requires employers to notify employees of their rights under USERRA, and employers may meet this requirement by displaying this notice where they customarily place notices for employees.



U.S. Department of Labor
1-866-487-2365



1-800-336-4590

PS "A" Class 01/05

Port Security Specialist "A" School Class 01/05 graduated June 3, 2005 at Training Center Yorktown, Va. Left column, r to l: PS3 Suzanne Budel, SNPS Stephen Longnecker, SNPS Alejandro Forte, SNPS Daniel Morrissey, SNPS Justin Selzler, Mr. Dan Montgomery, Instructor; Mr. Sam Solivan; MK1 Ramon Moore, Class Advisor and Instructor. Middle column, r to l: SNPS Erika Nelson, Class Guidon; PS3 Mistyann Schram, PS3 James Rogers, SNPS Justin Nesbit, SNPS Grant Howard, PS3 Kyla Ferguson, Class Yeoman; SNPS Jesus Perez, Honor Graduate; PS3 Miguel Longoria, SNPS William Atkins Jr., Mr. Steve Childs, Instructor; CWO4 D.F. Allen, School Chief. Right column, r to l: SNPS Michael Palmer, SNPS Michael Maust, SNPS Joseph Hermida, SNPS Tyler Brooks, PS3 Craig Higdon, Class Master At Arms; PS3 Michael Malkin, Class Leader; PS3 Justin Hanlon, SNPS Terrel Bernoudy, Mr. Greg Smith, Instructor; Mr. Charles Lindsey, Instructor.



Photo courtesy CWO4 Donald F. Allen, TRACEN Yorktown

REBI Class 07/05

Reserve Enlisted Basic Indoctrination Class Romeo 07/05 graduated April 22, 2005, at Training Center Cape May, N.J. Kneeling, left to right: SN Colby Clevenger, SN Vansroy Laird, PS3 Nelson Quinones, SN Wusthu Ung, SN Rudolph Mendoza, SN Scott Bright, PS2 Octavio Otero. Back row, l to r: SN Vincent George, PS3 Geoffrey Bennett, PS2 Jason Clark, BM2 Steven Burns, BM3 William Proctor, SN Filippo Donato, SN Michael Graham JR, SN Dwayne Dawson, SN Nathan Bryan, HS3 James Adams II, PS3 John Wozniak. Company commanders standing in front, l to r: MKCS Wayne Self, SK1 Richard Goodman, DCC Christopher Keplinger.



Photo by Mr. Scott Prince

REBI Class 08/05

Reserve Enlisted Basic Indoctrination Class Romeo 08/05 graduated May 27, 2005, at Training Center Cape May, N.J. Front row, left to right: MKCS Wayne Self, SK1 Pedro Lucena, YN1 Michael Franson, company commanders; SN Dylan McCall, PS2 Brian Anderson, PS3 Tom Gee, SN Rven Garcia, PS3 Timothy Buckley, SN Ruben Martinez-Ortiz, SN Nicholas Domico, SN Kristina Compelube. Kneeling l to r: IT3 Donald Finnerty, SN Patrick Rightmyer, SK3 Benedict Mackiewicz III, SN Robert Tolles, SN Billy Roth, ET3 Jon Harling, SN Terrance Malone, PS2 Christian Woodcock, SN Richard Rose. Back row, l to r: PS2 Colby Jorden, SK3 Jeffrey Thompson, PS3 Martin Crew, SK3 Brandon Keith, MST2 Justin Fimbres, PS2 Jerome Maier, SN Christopher Hartley, YN3 Jeremy Hood, SN Christopher McKay, ET2 Jason Nofzinger, PS3 Walter Brown, PS3 Leonard Mastrgiacomo, SN David Nolan.



Photo by Mr. Scott Prince



USCG photo courtesy LCDR Jack Dunphy, USCGR



Proud to be Americans...

LCDR Jack Dunphy, left, and CWO3 Guy Hadley, right, pause with singer Lee Greenwood in front of the "Faces of the Fallen" exhibit at the Women's Memorial in Arlington, Va. June 28. The three were attending a reception kick-off for the release of a CD called "Salute" which honors WWII veterans and produced by Rod McBrien, who served in the 1960s Coast Guard. Dunphy and Haley are both reservists recalled to active duty; Dunphy is the USCG representative to the World War II 60th Commemorative Committee.

USCG photo by PA2 Matthew Belson



A Show of Support

Actor Ben Affleck stands for a snapshot with members of Coast Guard Patrol Forces Southwest Asia at a USO sponsored morale and welfare event for U.S. servicemembers. Affleck signed autographs and held a premiere showing of his film Paycheck.



USCG photo by PA1 Barry Lane

Honorary Master Chief

MCPOCG Frank Welch presents retired NBA coach Arnold "Red" Auerbach the honorary pay grade of master chief. Auerbach coached the Boston Celtics to nine championships in 10 years (1957-1966) and is a former Navy chief. Auerbach talked to a standing room only crowd June 10 at a DC CPOA sponsored leadership event at Headquarters.

On the Set

BM2 Mike Carr, left, and FS2 Joe "Bully" Cleary, right, pause for a photo with stars of the CBS Drama CSI: Miami, actress Sofia Milos and actor David Caruso, during a break from filming.



Photo courtesy CSI Miami





CG P.I.C.

STORY BY
SPRING DE HAVILAND,
PA1, USCGR

The three-person staff of the Coast Guard's Motion Picture and Television Office works to expose the Coast Guard's people and missions to the public. These three work behind the scenes on everything from multi-million dollar productions to low budget documentaries for both the silver and small screen. They guide the fate of the Coast Guard's image in an industry that often pays little attention to military details.

Who are these super men?

At the helm of the United States Coast Guard Motion Picture and Television Office (MOPIC) is CDR Jeff Loftus. Since 2000, Loftus has overseen hundreds of television and film shoots.

"I focus my attention to working 'behind the camera' and showcasing our Coast Guard responders," he explained.

In portrayals of the USCG tour d' force: Lifesavers, helicopters, cutters and small boats, the MOPIC team of Loftus, CWO Randy Midgett and PACS Tyler Johnson ensures the Coast Guard's integrity and authenticity are upheld. Mission one is to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Coast Guard, its people and missions through a cooperative effort with the entertainment industry. Written revocable license agreements articulate the specific support units and people will render and what the Coast Guard expects from a production company. MOPIC also makes sure the productions and documentaries are in compliance with Coast Guard rules and regulations.

MOPIC's staff of three represents more than 46,000 Coast Guard personnel and a multitude of assets, stations, and bases worldwide.

Films:

MOPIC's Cause and "Special Effect"

Multiple challenges and tasks, long hours, and being a 'marshal' on sets dominate MOPIC's operations in Westwood, Calif. Let's peek into MOPIC's logbook: The following examples show how the interplay of MOPIC's effort results in prominent Coast Guard exposure: Actors Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher discussed, 'the future blockbuster' May 23, 2005, said Loftus, of the Coast Guard movie, *The Guardsman*. For a remake of the movie *Yours, Mine and Ours*, Loftus arranged a dinner between Dennis Quaid and RADM Kevin Eldridge, Commander of the Eleventh Coast Guard District.

"In this meeting, Dennis, who plays an admiral, could ask questions, study mannerisms and get a sense of military bearing," Loftus explained.

Another benefit of working in Hollywood is, "when off-duty Coast Guard personnel get the opportunity to fill the casting call as extras," said Midgett. In May 2005, he coordinated about 50 Coast Guard extras for scenes with Quaid and Rene Russo. MOPIC has earned its meddle as the godfathers of coordination and esprit d' corps.



How did one Coastie feel about his brush with fame? "I thought it was a good experience to see all the work and effort being put into making movies," said MKC Brent Helmick, of CGC Halibut. He "acted" in the remake's recreation of a Coast Guard Headquarters hallway filmed at Los Angeles City Hall. Helmick assessed his day: "We did a lot of retakes in nine hours. Quaid's portrayal of an admiral was good. Between the retakes, he practiced his salute in front of Coast Guard

officers and asked, 'How am I doing?'"

After the shoot, Quaid shook hands and posed for a photo with the Coast Guard extras. Comparing movie life to the Coast Guard, he continued, "I'd rather be in the Coast Guard. Movies have a lot of down time. I'd rather be actively involved and like our TV ads say 'Be part of the action!'"

MOPIC Ingenuity:

More Face Time For Coasties

Crafting original ideas that promote the Coast Guard is part of the MOPIC team's job.

"We reach out to the writers and director and make suggestions," Loftus commented.

Meeting with director Michael Bay of *Bad Boys II* produced additional scenes for the Coast Guard that were not in the original script. Three scenes were added

featuring a cutter and the Coast Guard's HITRON helicopters.

According to MOPIC, the answer is "that some productions dramatize the stories while others use actual Coast Guard footage."

Coast Guard The Series highlighted dramatic footage on its weekly half-hour show airing on over 100 television stations nationwide in the mid-1990s. This series was an asset for Coast Guard recruiting as have been *J.A.G.*, *CSI Miami*, *West Wing* and *The Simpsons*. On the *Tonight Show* in 2002, a Coastie quartet competed in Jay Leno's Annual Armed Forces Talent Contest.

What about other MOPIC military liaisons? "We all are in the same genre to help our respective services and educate the public," Loftus replied.

Other projects showcasing the USCG crews, assets, USCG reserve members and off-duty Coastie actors and actresses include *The Perfect Storm*, based on a true USCG rescue story, *The Hunt for Red October*, *Top Gun*, *Clear and Present Danger*, *Day Light*, *Lethal Weapons 4*, *Threat Matrix*, *Double Jeopardy*, *Cocoon*, *Overboard* and *Heartbreak Ridge*. In *Blood*



USCG photo by CWO4 Lance Jones.

CDR Jeff Loftus, MOPIC, looks on as the scenes are filmed for an upcoming episode of "CSI Miami."

Work, Clint Eastwood was surprised on the set with an USCG ball cap by a former MOPIC liaison officer CWO2 Dan Waldschmidt.

MOPIC's Leading Role

So, what does it takes to be a successful MOPIC liaison in the ultra competitive show biz world?

Take a mixture of the cool Jimmy Stewart affability, Sean Connery's command presence, and Ameila Ehrhart's energy — these are unpinning character driven attributes of the quintessentially omniscient staff.

MOPIC has many areas of responsibilities. They assist with technical research, story development, provide stock footage of USCG operations and B-roll of the Coast Guard in action; arrange for filming and re-creations at Coast Guard facilities, cutters, small boats and air stations. They coordinate interviews and travel requests for Coast Guard personnel, provide on set advice, dialogue assistance and coordinate all Coast Guard resources and people, complete rapid turnaround review of scripts, treatments and rough cuts to ensure

accuracy, authenticity and conformity to revocable production agreements. In addition, they engage with entertainment decision makers who are shown compelling USCG videos about real life USCG heroes and heroines.

"Our exposure is worldwide through films, television shows, series, documentaries, cable channels like Discovery, History, Animal Planet, Lifetime and the Weather Channel," said Midgett, who came aboard the summer of 2003. "Currently there are 37 entertainment scripts in process involving the Coast Guard."

Vignettes of USCG in the Spotlight

Who gets copies of the Coast Guard's vignettes? Reporting to USCG Headquarters, MOPIC forwards copies of shows to the Commandant and Master Chief of the Coast Guard. Others must make requests to the production companies.

"Being on movie or television sets is rewarding, educational and entertaining," said LT Dave Oney, formerly with MOPIC from November 2000 to June 2004 and now at

USCG Headquarters public affairs. "Sets can be a controlled chaos — a situation similar to interdiction of migrant operations."

So what is the MOPIC liaison role with the production companies? Oney recounts the experience. In 2003, *The West Wing* TV show used 30 off-duty Coasties from the Integrated Support Command in San Pedro, Calif. The script called for an oil tanker that went aground on the coast of Delaware. Oney and CWO Dan Waldschmidt arrived at noon for an evening shoot in the Warner Brothers' parking lot in Burbank, Calif.

"Our first order of business," Oney explained, "was to ensure that characters playing Coasties looked authentic."

Actress Jacqueline Kim of *Xena Warrior Princess* played a USCG lieutenant for a recurring romance with Rob Lowe. She passed MOPIC's inspection. Then, they spotted an actor with thick, recalcitrant hair. Busted! He was non-compliant with Coast Guard grooming standards. What a surprise...it was the show's star Martin Sheen! Or was it?

"How do you want his hair cut, Mr. Oney?"



Then LCDR Jeff Loftus, left, and members of the Ceremonial Honor Guard stand beside Tony Plana and Martin Sheen in an episode of the NBC drama, The West Wing.

the make up artist asked.

"Like mine! High and tight!" he replied. In this real life scene, Coast Guard ruled!

During a meal break the cast and crew, in awe of Coasties proudly squared away, asked "Are you real?"

Then after the shoot, they posed for photos to commemorate the classy Coast Guard crew.

From Page to Stage...the Genesis!

For *The West Wing* oil tanker spill and vessel aground scene, the Pacific Area Command Strike Team from Novato, Calif. brought a tractor-trailer flatbed loaded with oil containment booms to Burbank near Los Angeles. Studios or productions companies pay for transportation and accommodations.

"This aground scene was filmed seven times and took five hours," said Oney. Adding atmosphere "oiled" waterfowl gleamed with non-toxic makeup while giant fans created wind. In the closing scene, the camera lingered on a Coast Guard rigid hull inflatable boat.

Now as we say in sailing, "Hard ale!" Another tack was taken by the film editors. The episode was too long — the Coast Guard scene hit the sunny beach of the cutting room floor!

Bad Boys II, a hairy, aerial film shoot in Miami during August 2002, used two USCG Hitron helicopters complete with pilot, co-pilot, flight mechanic and a gunners mate with a .50 caliber gun. Hitro scenes were well choreographed in tandem to eke between a suspension bridge and the water.

Meanwhile, high atop an unfinished skyscraper, CDR Loftus and then-CWO2 Oney, with director Michael Bay, and his production team, swayed from the propeller wash in the Miami heat. For the intense action, Bay explained to MOPIC what he wants. Then, MOPIC related the directions to the pilots. MOPIC calls the shots. Cheek to cheek, they were this close to the aerial director, and both shared one radio.

"We were so high up, none of the movie crew wanted to go down the elevator to retrieve the second radio from the car," Oney laughed.

In the fly by scene, safety is paramount. Reassuring the crew, the Coast Guard pilot radioed back, "There's plenty of room to fly under the bridge... plenty of clearance." Also in the sky, the aerial coordinator flies in a faux Miami Police helo.

With laser quick speed, the very maneuverable Hitron locks on the bad guys' small boat. Dramatically, the helo swoops down in an S-turn to interdict their escape out to sea.

So from the page to the stage, what was the genesis?



What It Takes: The Iceberg Beneath

Nine-tenths of an iceberg is underwater. Likewise, nine-tenths of MOPIC's foundation is diligence, sweat equity, and horsepower. Some project folders, like *A Clear and Present Danger*, measures four inches thick. Here's the chart of what lies beneath at MOPIC's "epic" center:!

Part 1: Project Work Order

Ground Rules Agreements, Ground Rules Letters, License Agreements, Insurance Policies, Legal Review & Changes, Credits

Part 2: Contact Sheet

Cast & Crew Lists, Unit POCs, Chain of Command Issues, E-mail and Phone Numbers, CG Participants List

Part 3: Shooting Schedule

Shooting Schedules, Call Sheets, Locations Issues, Waterways Management, Direction & Maps, Clearances, Regulatory Issues

Part 4: Script

Approved Script, Script Revision & Negotiation, Written Concepts, Bibles (flushes out personality of each character), Screenplays, Character Development

Part 5: Communication

Correspondence, Letters, Phone Conversation Records, E-Mail, Memorandums, Travel Memo Requests, Travel Expense Documents

Part 6 Miscellaneous

Database Files, Production Company Info, Internet Research, Background Information, Case Histories Documentation, Bios & Resumes



LOS ANGELES, Calif. (Dec. 11, 2003) — The television drama, Threat Matrix, starring James Denton, filmed scenes that included Coast Guard members from Station Los Angeles, MSST 91103 and Group Los Angeles. The scenes included two of MSST's RB-HSs, a vehicle from Station LA, a vehicle from Group LA and approximately 25 uniformed members.

USCG photo by PA3 Louis Hebert

Six months prior to the shoot at a one-hour meeting, Loftus and Oney heard Bay's feature film script pitch. The two Coast Guardsmen then captivated Bay. They regaled him about the Hitron helo and non lethal technology being done by a New England research and development company.

What benefits does the Coast Guard get when they are in a production? In this film and most, the production company pays for all consumables: food, fuel, water. Also, the Coast Guard air crew received stipend to cover their housing.

Some CG scenes are just a blip. In the 1996 film *Daylight*, Sylvester Stallone's character swam through an underground tunnel to the water's surface on the Hudson River. Axiomatically, a USCG buoy tender rescued him. In "Popeye Meets Ali Baba's Forty Thieves," Popeye was serving in the Coast Guard.

USCG Exposure Draws Potential Recruits

HS1 Don Murray, stationed at the USCG Recruiting Office in Hawthorne, Calif. since 2004, related that the movie *Top Gun*, a flying epic for the Navy starring Tom Cruise, drew in an applicant. An 18 year old said he was motivated by seeing a USCG rescue swimmer jump in the water to rescue "Maverick," Tom Cruise's character. He wanted to save people's lives, liked the water, liked helping people, and wanted to join the Coast Guard!

Some have come in due to seeing documentaries.

"From phone calls after seeing the Coast Guard on TV or movies, most inquirers are looking for a job with benefits," Murray explained. "The people

recruiting brings into the Coast Guard are people that want to save lives and fight the war on drugs."

Of course, poetic license is used when the script exaggerates real life.

Private Benjamin, a movie starring Goldie Hawn as a new Army recruit is the ultimate example of the hyperbolizing technique. Army phones were ringing off the wall with questions: "Do you have condos for us in Hawaii? What kind of personal boats do we get? Do we fly free?"

According to Army recruiters, "Real Army life is 180 degrees from the film version."

Likewise, the movie *Sister Act* starring Whoopie Goldberg, attracted women who wanted to be nuns like Sister Mary Clarence in a hip convent. And travel to Vegas with the Flying Elvises? Fr. Ken Deasy, a parish priest in the Los Angeles area, says he still reels from the avalanche of attention...for all the wrong reasons."

At MOPIC, whether art imitates life or life imitates art, stretching the envelope is rare...except when a Hitron flies high and tight under a Miami bridge!

Ed's note: PA1 DeHaviland, author of this article, has been a CG Reservist since January 1977. Previous cover stories include "Helping at Huntington Beach" published in July 1990 following the Huntington Beach, Calif. Oil spill (Feb. 7, 1990). She also served as Coast Guard Liaison to the USCG Festival in Grand Haven, Mich. for the Coast Guard's Bicentennial celebration in 1990, and received several awards for teaching four summers at Defense Information School (DINFOS) at Fort Benjamin Harrison, in Indianapolis, Ind.



Film crews from the television show "CSI Miami" shoot footage for an upcoming episode on board the CGC Blackfin.

Surrealism in LA LA Land

Hobnobbing with the Stars at Sid Caesar's 80th Birthday Bash

Ed's note: LT Dave Oney served at MOPIC from November 2000 to June 2004. Here are his memories (as told to PA1 Spring de Haviland) of a presentation he made to Coast Guardsman and comedian Sid Caesar at the LA Friars Club in October 2002.

Being a liaison officer for the Coast Guard Motion Picture and TV Office has its perks. My wife Jill and I attended the Friar's Club salute to Sid Caesar Sunday, Oct. 6, 2002.

Actor and comedian Eric Strett invited the MOPIC office to the party and asked if it might be possible to have something done up for Sid on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Strett told us that every time Caesar saw him, he talked about his days in the Coast Guard, and always had good things to say about it. It turned out Sid Caesar did not own a copy of Tars and Spars, his first feature film, so I made him one and prepared a Certificate of Appreciation (signed by the Commandant).

The night of the party, I was there in an official capacity representing the U.S. Coast Guard to present the certificate and copy of Tars and Spars to Caesar.

The setting was surreal. We found ourselves surrounded by fantastic imagery and incongruous juxtaposition. Black and white photos adorn the walls, as do color oil paintings and life size portraits of friars past and present. We stood in front of an almost life-size portrait of Frank Sinatra, which greets the visitor upon entering the ballroom. There are two rows of portraits of the more famous friars on one wall. The top row are still living, but the bottom row, with the exception of Phyllis Diller, have passed away.

"Most of the top row are here tonight except for Don Rickles, who is performing back east somewhere or in Vegas," said Strett. "He gets about \$100,000 per show, so it's tough to turn that down."

Upstairs in the VIP room sat Sid Caesar. Everyone crowded around him, taking turns getting their pictures taken with him. Getting in closer, we got a good look at the new octogenarian. He was still fit. I inched my way in beside his chair and his eyes lit up as he recognized the uniform. His voice was low, almost a whisper.

"I was in the Coast Guard, you know," said Caesar.

"Yes, sir. I know. That's why I'm here tonight," I said.

"Is Admiral Waesche still around?" asked Caesar.

Everyone was watching his face as he looked at my uniform. The Service Dress Blue Alpha uniform got a lot of attention all night.

"Thank you so much for coming," said Caesar.

He seemed very sincere. His grip was very strong.

"I wouldn't have missed it. Thanks for having me," I said.

A few minutes later, as we stood near the bar with our drinks, Drew Carey walked over and asked, "What's with the get up?"

"It's real," I said. "It's Coast Guard. Sid Caesar was in the Coast Guard."

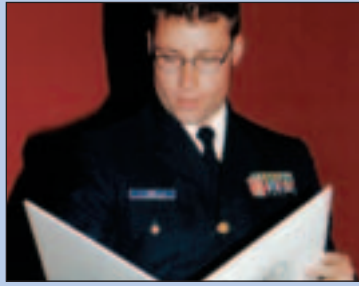
"Oh, that's right," said Carey. "He was. Hi, I'm Drew Carey. This is my niece Allison," he said, referring to the youthful looking blonde in the black dress and heels.

"I'm Dave. Nice to meet you. Hi, Allison. This is my wife, Jill," I said.

We all shook hands, and then mingled some more.

Once Mr. Carey and his date were out of earshot, Jill asked, "Do you think that was really his niece?"

"Yes. Yes, I do," I replied.



Photos courtesy LT Dave Oney, USCG

LT Dave Oney, then CWO3, reads and then presents a Certificate of Appreciation to former Coast Guardsman and comedy legend Sid Caesar at the Los Angeles Friar's Club in October 2002.

A photographer ran up and took our picture as the room was becoming more crowded with famous people.

Phyllis Diller, 85, was seated at a table and looked very good. Nanette Fabray, 82, was still very spry and easily recognizable. Some other stars included Cyd Charisse, 81, and her husband, crooner Tony Martin, nearly 89, and comedian Richard Lewis, 55. Comedian Jeffrey Ross was wearing an ascot like Buddy Hackett's, and we recognized Max Alexander from Comedy Central.

After we sat down and started eating, 83-year-old Red Buttons walked in and saw my uniform.

"What's he doing here?" he shouted, pointing at me. "He oughta be out looking for Osama bin Laden!"

Shortly after 7 p.m., Norm Crosby, 74, master of ceremonies, took the stage. He was also master of misusing familiar words and phrases, describing Sid Caesar's career as "very extinguished," for example.

Crosby read letters from Sid's friends and now-famous writers, actors, producers and directors such as Mel Brooks, who got their start writing for Sid on Your Show of Shows. Woody Allen sent a videotaped congratulations.

Then there were the legends: Buddy Hackett, Nanette Fabray, Carl Reiner, Red Buttons...my presentation followed Red Buttons. It was about 9:30, and I wasn't told who I'd be following in the program. When Crosby said my name, I scrambled to get the coffee mug, a ball cap and the certificate and squeezed my way between the tables to get to the stage. Crosby shook my hand when I arrived, and said he'd been in the Coast Guard too.

I told Crosby and the audience that it was a privilege and an honor to be there to present these gifts and certificate of appreciation to Sid Caesar. I stepped out from behind the podium and began reading the citation, but had to go back to the podium when the audience let me know they couldn't hear me. By the time I finished reading the citation, Sid was standing beside me on stage. I presented the certificate to him and shook his hand as everyone stood up and applauded. Six or seven

photographers were there to capture the presentation. It was overwhelming. Sid looked at me and said thank you.

Thank you, I said, then made my way off stage.

The president of the club got up, said a few words, then turned the podium over to Sid. Caesar looked around the room and began his comments in what sounded like French, then switched to German, then Chinese, Spanish, and finally English.

And that concluded the birthday celebration.

In the parking garage a few minutes later as everyone waited for the valets to bring their cars out, Crosby thanked me for coming and said he had represented the Coast Guard at a USO ceremony last year, placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"These things mean a lot," he said.

Richard Lewis told me I did a good job and "that was a nice thing you did."

It felt like my tongue was too thick and I wasn't sure I got all the words out correctly, I told him.

"No. It was good," he said. "But I'll get you a Mr. Microphone so we can hear you next time."

Settling in for the hour-long drive home, Jill broke the silence, turned to me and asked again, "Do you think that was really his niece?"

"Yes," I said, staring straight ahead. "Yes, I do."



In Brief



• **AMERICA'S WATERWAY WATCH** — America's Waterway Watch is a public outreach program encouraging participants to simply report suspicious activity to the Coast Guard and/or other law enforcement agencies. Unlike some neighborhood watch programs, you are not formally joining an organization — there are no meetings, membership cards or membership requirements — and you do not become an agent of the Coast Guard or any other law enforcement agency. For more info, contact CPO Penny Collins, Commandant (G-MPP-2), 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001; E-mail: awwuscg@americaswaterwaywatch.org Web: www.americaswaterwaywatch.org

• **PHASE-OUT OF UNDRRESS AND WORKING BLUE UNIFORMS** — Effective Sept. 30, 2005, the Undress Blue and Working Blue Uniforms will no longer be authorized for wear by active or reserve personnel. These uniforms will continue to be optional for members of the Auxiliary until otherwise directed. For more info, see ALCOAST 191/05.

• **SELRES DENTAL READINESS** — Commanding Officers are responsible for the dental readiness of reservists assigned to their units. They shall ensure members are directed to complete their dental exams at CG or DoD dental clinics using IDT drills, Readiness Management Periods (RMPs), or Active Duty for Training (ADT). For additional info, please see ALCOAST 190/05 or contact MLC(K) Health Benefits Help Line at 1-800-9HBA-HBA (1-800-942-2422).



• **MILITARY SPOUSE CAREER CENTER** — A new Military Spouse Career Center commissioned by the Department of Defense Office of Military Community & Family Policy launched April 4 at: www.Military.com/spouse. The new resource connects America's 1 million military spouses with education options, scholarships, training programs, career planning tips and employment opportunities. The new Military Spouse Career Center was developed under contract by Monster, the leading global online careers property, and its

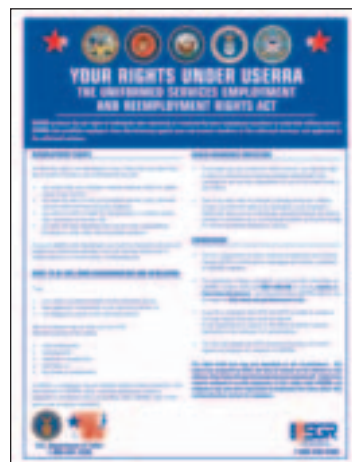
Military.com subsidiary. The Center also includes links to the personal support services offered to military families at Military OneSource 24/7 at 1-800-342-9647 and www.militaryonesource.com.

• WEEKEND ASSISTANCE FOR RESERVISTS AT PSC —

Reservists at PSC are now “answering the call” one weekend a month to assist and answer questions from reservists nationwide! The weekend schedule for FY 2005 is as follows: Aug. 20-21, Sept. 17-18. Contact PSC at 1-866-772-8724 or 785-339-2200; E-mail: pscusercontent@hrsic.uscg.mil; Web: www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/

• **PSC CUSTOMER SERVICE** — If you have recently contacted the Personnel Service Center Customer Care Branch, they would like you to fill out a short Customer Service Survey. The information you provide will be used for process improvement and to help identify training needs so PSC may serve you better in the future. To access the survey, please logon to <http://cgweb.psc.uscg.mil/ccbsurvey>.

• **USERRA POSTERS** — The National Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) announced recently that posters explaining the rights of employees in the National Guard and Reserve under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) are now available from the U.S. Department of Labor, and may be downloaded at www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/poster.pdf For more info on USERRA or ESGR, visit www.esgr.mil or call 1-800-336-4590. A copy of the poster is printed on page 21.



• **SGLI INCREASING TO \$400K**: The maximum level of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage will be increased from \$250,000 to \$400,000 Sept. 1, 2005. Anyone in military service on Sept. 1, 2005 will have their coverage increased to \$400,000, even if they previously declined or elected lesser coverage. You can re-elect no coverage or less than the maximum. Watch for more details in the near future. Personnel Service Center has already posted an article at <http://cgweb.psc.uscg.mil/spnewsletter.aspx>

• USCG CYCLING GEAR —

Jerseys, vests, jackets, shorts, shoes, socks, sunglasses, helmets and hats! For details and info on how to order, see:

<http://uscgcyclinggear.com> or e-mail LT Robert Gardali at: uscg@goride.com (The U.S. Coast Guard does not endorse these products; this is published as a service to our readers).



Upcoming Events

THROUGHOUT 2005...

• **WORLD WAR II 60TH ANNIVERSARY** — Throughout 2005, the World War II Commemorative Committee will be running events nationwide to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the final year of the war (1945). To view events, check the Web site: www.60wwii.mil and/or contact LCDR Jack Dunphy, DoD WWII Commemoration Committee, RPN, Suite 5413, 1777 N. Kent St., Arlington, VA 22209, 703-588-8598; jack.dunphy@hqda.army.mil

AUGUST 2005

• **COAST GUARD FESTIVAL** — July 29-Aug. 7, Grand Haven, Mich. For info, contact: U.S. Coast Guard Festival, 113 N. Second St., Grand Haven, MI 49417; Phone: 1-888-207-2434; Web: www.ghcgfest.org

• **COAST GUARD DAY 2005** — Is Thursday, Aug. 4! What is your unit planning to commemorate the Coast Guard's 215th birthday?

• **PORT HURON COAST GUARD APPRECIATION DAYS** — Aug. 19-21, Port Huron, Mich. Activities include a Memorial Service at International Flag Plaza Friday, Aug. 19. On Saturday, Aug. 20, tour USCG Station Port Huron, CGC Hollyhock and decommissioned CGC Bramble, Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, museum lightship Huron, and Port Huron Museum. The Seaway Terminal will host a Saturday evening dinner to honor local active and retired Coast Guard members. Former CG members should register at www.wgrt.com (click on CG

icon and provide name, address, phone, dates of USCG service). More info will be e-mailed or mailed to you.

SEPTEMBER 2005

• **CG AUXILIARY NACON 2005** — Coast Guard Auxiliary National Conference, Sept. 1-3, 2005, Orlando, Fla. For info, see Auxiliary web site: www.cgaux.org

• **CPOA NATIONAL CONVENTION** — 37th annual, Sept. 12-15, St. Louis, Mo. Contact CPO Association, 5520-G Hempstead Way, Springfield, VA 22151-4009; 703-941-0395; cgcpoa@aol.com Web: www.uscgcpoa.org

• **JOINT SERVICES RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY** — Saturday, Sept. 17, 2400 Mystic Lake Blvd., Prior Lake, MN 55372. For info, contact LTC Lloyd Ward, e-mail: Lloyd.Ward@minneapolis.af.mil or write: Retired Activities Office, Navy & Marine Corps Reserve Center, 6400 Bloomington Road, Fort Snelling, St. Paul, MN 55111.

• **FLEET WEEK SAN DIEGO 2005** — Sept. 30 to Oct. 29. Includes football classic, sea 'n' air parade, ship tours, air show. For info, call 619-858-1545, Web: www.fleetweeksaniego.org

OCTOBER 2005

• **RESERVE SERVICE WIDE EXAM** — Tentatively slated for Saturday, Oct. 15. Study hard and make your shipmates proud!

Reunions

AUGUST 2005

• **PSU 309 FAMILY DAY PICNIC & 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF UNIT'S COMMISSIONING** — Saturday, Aug. 13, 2005, 2 p.m. Camp Perry Picnic Area, Camp Perry Training Site, Port Clinton, Ohio. Come see old shipmates and enjoy games, boat rides, sporting activities and picnic foods. Dress is civilian casual. All active duty, reserve, retired, spouses, family members, past members, and original members of PSU 301, 302, 303 are also invited. For info, contact LTJG Antonio Valentin, E-mail: LatinoMag@aol.com; Phone: 773-213-9648

• **PORT HURON COAST GUARD APPRECIATION DAYS** — Aug. 19-21, Port Huron, Mich. Activities include a Memorial Service at International Flag Plaza Friday, Aug. 19. On Saturday, Aug. 20, tour USCG Station Port Huron, CGC Hollyhock and decommissioned CGC Bramble, Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, museum lightship Huron and Port Huron Museum. The Seaway Terminal will host a Saturday evening dinner to honor local active and retired Coast Guard members. Former CG members should register at: www.wgrt.com (click on CG icon and provide name, address, phone, dates of USCG service). More info will be e-mailed or mailed to you.

SEPTEMBER 2005

• **IWO JIMA VETERANS GROUP** — Sept. 11-14, 2005, Rapid City, S.D. Contact: Dwight Morgan, 5908 Chatsworth Drive, Huber Heights, OH 45424, (937) 233-9991; E-mail: iwojimavets@yahoo.com Web: www.iwojimavets.com/index.html (Posted 13 APR 05)

• **NORTH COAST NEW YORK COAST GUARD ASSOCIATION** — Sept. 23-25, Sacketts Harbor, N.Y. Seeking Coasties who served aboard CGC's Cherry, Maple, Ojibwa, White Lupine, Buckthorn, Arundel, Point Steele, Wire and CG's 83359, 65024-D (Chockberry), 55030, 45305, 49414, 45308, or 49404, while homeported in upper New York, Burlington, Vt. or Saugerties, N.Y. Also, seeking any Coastie who served at Erie, Pa. Lifeboat Station, Buffalo Base, Fort Niagara LBS, Rochester LBS, Sodus Point (AUX OP), Oswego LBS, Galloo Island LBS, Sacketts Harbor (AUX OP), Cape Vincent Light Attendant Station, CG Station Alex. Bay, MSD Massena, Burlington Base, Vt. ATN Saugerties, Reserve Unit (PSU Buffalo/Syracuse, Loran Station Seneca). Also, any lighthouse, small unit or CGC in the above area. Any year, regular, reserve, auxiliary or civilian. Contact: Mr. Gordon Koscher, North Coast New York Coast Guard Association, 4712 Glenwood Drive, Mantua, OH 44255, (330)-274-2927.

• **SQUADRON ONE DIVISION-13 CAT-LO VIETNAM, 1965/66 REUNION** — 1965/66 members of USCG SQUADRON ONE DIVISION-13 stationed at Cat-lo Vietnam, Sept. 26-30, 2005 in Sam's Town, Nev. (Las Vegas). Division-13 was formed in December 1965 and arrived in Cat-Lo Vietnam in February 1966. Division-13 consisted of nine 82-foot cutters, their 11-man Coast Guard crews and a Coast Guard support staff. The reunion is planned for those who formed and served in Division-13 during 1965/66. However anyone who served in Division-13 at Cat-Lo is invited to attend. For info contact: ET2 Jerry Sampont (Point White), 360-457-6671; SK2 Mike Mattie (Support Staff), 425-672-7521; E-mail: division131966@yahoo.com

• **COAST GUARD USS CENTAURUS AKA-17 REUNION** — Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2005, Chicago Hilton Hotel, Chicago, Ill. Contact: Richard Gluth, 262-245-5527; E-mail: rgluth@yahoo.com

OCTOBER 2005

• **CGC TANAY** — Oct. 6-8, 2005, Radisson Hotel and aboard CGC Taney, Baltimore, Md. Former crew of CGC TANAY WPG/WHEC 37, 1936-1986. Events include special tours and activities aboard Taney at the Baltimore Maritime Museum, day trip to Washington, D.C. and banquet. For more info, contact Frank Tobat (SK1 1968-70), 410-546-1557, E-mail: frank@hvacservicesunlimited.com

• **USS CASCO** — Attention all former crew of USS CASCO (AVP-12) or USCGC CASCO (WAVP-370). The 2005 CASCO reunion will be held at the Crystal City Courtyard by Marriott in Arlington, Va., Oct. 6-8, 2005. For more info, contact Gary Wehrmann, USCG (DC3, 1967-68), 210-885-9366, E-mail: gwehrmann@sbcglobal.net

• **U.S. COAST GUARD COMBAT VETERANS ASSOCIATION** — Oct. 20-23, in Tampa, Fla., Holiday Inn, 2701 East Fowler Avenue. For membership and reunion info, contact Mr. Baker Herbert, LM, P.O. Box 544, Westfield Center, OH 44251, 330-887-5539, E-mail: uscgw64@worldnet.att.net Web: www.coastguardcombatvets.com

WRITE A RETIRED SHIPMATE...

• CWO4 (PERS) Ralph Hawkins, USCGR(Ret.) is currently in long-term medical care and would love to hear from his shipmates. He enlisted in the CGR Sept. 9, 1964, and was a member of Company Foxtrot 56, having served extensively within the First Coast Guard District. Contact info: CWO4 Ralph Hawkins, Room 123, c/o Springside of Pittsfield LTCF, 255 Lebanon Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201; 413-499-2334 (main number of facility).

Awards

Defense Superior Service Medal

CAPT Ronald L. Davis, USTRANSCOM

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

CDR Jack Laufer, PACAREA PSU Det.

LT Mark Ames, PACAREA PSU Det.

MCPO John Stafford, PACAREA PSU Det.

MKC Guy Studvik, PACAREA PSU Det.

Joint Service Commendation Medal

LT Ronald Sligh, PACAREA PSU Det.

MKC Ira Foshay, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM1 Jose Galvan, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM1 Kris Knott, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM1 Eric Marfull, PACAREA PSU Det.

GM1 Henry Ng, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM2 Daniel Foy, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM2 Stanley Fukuda, PACAREA PSU Det.

YN2 Venida Farnum, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM3 Jarod Ross, PACAREA PSU Det.

MK3 Brad Etzler, PACAREA PSU Det.

Coast Guard Commendation Medal

LT Scott Toves, G-WTR-2 (CG-1312)

CWO3 (S/A) Donald J. Rifkin, CGIS

MCPO Ann Tubbs, G-WTL (CG-12b)

Joint Service Achievement Medal

CWO4 Daniel Yerushalmi, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM1 Sarah Frost, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM1 Michael Henson, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM1 Eric Marfull, PACAREA PSU Det.

EM1 William Kendall, PACAREA PSU Det.

FS1 Clifford Foskett, PACAREA PSU Det.

MK1 Ely Cabedo, PACAREA PSU Det.

MK1 Jo (Ludwig) Toledo, PACAREA PSU Det.

MST1 Michael Brewer, PACAREA PSU Det.

MST1 Frank Figoni, PACAREA PSU Det.

OS1 Darren Erickson, PACAREA PSU Det.

PS1 Steven Strauss, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM2 William Glenzer, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM2 Jason Lombard, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM2 Bruce MacPherson, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM2 Amelia Wheeler, PACAREA PSU Det.

EM2 Christopher Wilson, PACAREA PSU Det.

ET2 Aaron Moore, PACAREA PSU Det.

MK2 Michael Caliguire, PACAREA PSU Det.

MK2 Eric Gernaat, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM3 Michael Deleon, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM3 Nancy Potts, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM3 Scott Rattay, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM3 Robert Trombley, PACAREA PSU Det.

DC3 Edward Barajas, PACAREA PSU Det.

FS3 Tracy Mellott, PACAREA PSU Det.

GM3 James Mauro, PACAREA PSU Det.

MK3 Suzanne Robertson, PACAREA PSU Det.

MK3 Chris San Filippo, PACAREA PSU Det.

MK3 David Van Peer, PACAREA PSU Det.

PS3 James McIntier, PACAREA PSU Det.

PS3 Michael Parnow, PACAREA PSU Det.

SNMK Dustin Gano, PACAREA PSU Det.

SN Sarah Benton, PACAREA PSU Det.

SN Ashton Swank, PACAREA PSU Det.

Coast Guard Achievement Medal

LTJG Jae-Won Kwon, G-WTR-2 (CG-1312)

YN1 Patricia Feeney, D9

Commandant's Letter of Commendation

MST1 Frank Figoni, PACAREA PSU Det.

BM3 Robert Trombley, PACAREA PSU Det.

SNBM Alexandria Chretien, PACAREA PSU Det.

SNBM Robert Watson, PACAREA PSU Det.

SN Zachary McDougal, PACAREA PSU Det.



Photo by PA2 Enica Taylor, SMTTC

Outstanding Instructor...

Coast Guard BM1 Kory Cronin, right, accepts his Instructor of the Year Award from Marine Corps Col. Washabaugh, Commanding Officer of the School of Infantry, during a ceremony April 9, in Jacksonville, N.C. The ceremony honors exceptional instructors from the Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard. Currently stationed at Coast Guard Special Missions Training Center located at Camp Lejeune, Cronin is a fast boat tactics instructor. Instructors at the unit are responsible for providing standardized, safe and relevant fast boat tactics and training to Coast Guard and Navy students.



Photo courtesy BMC William Cole, USCGR

Mr. Alan Owen Day!

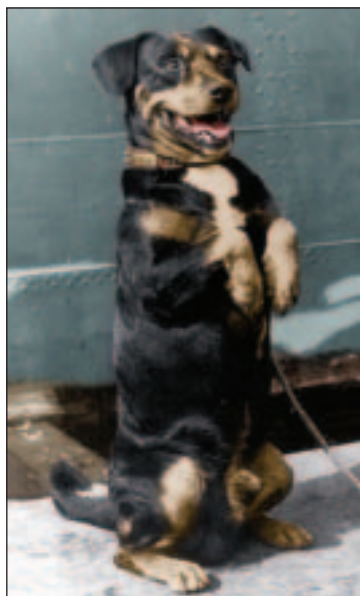
Station New Haven OIC BMCS Robert Milmoie, left, presents reservist MK1 Alan Owen, with a proclamation from Gov. Jodi Rell of Connecticut, who proclaimed Feb. 11, 2005 as "Mr. Alan Owen Day" in the state for his numerous contributions to the state's emergency medical service. Owen has 26 years service in the CGR and has been activated twice since 9/11.



SINBAD of the COAST GUARD

The most famous sea dog in history

With an Introduction by Mike Walling
Author of "Bloodstained Sea"



Ed's Note: *The reading level is for 4th grade and up. (But remember, you're never too old to enjoy a good Sea Story!)*

This is the adventurous, true story of Sinbad whose exploits on board the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Campbell during World War II became legend. His chunky black and tan figure was known in a hundred ports, from Greenland — where he nearly caused an international incident — to Africa, where he was the guest at a Sultan's Palace and as far away as Japan.

Although famous to thousands of people in many nations, Sinbad was happiest at sea, treading the decks of the sleek Campbell, where he was

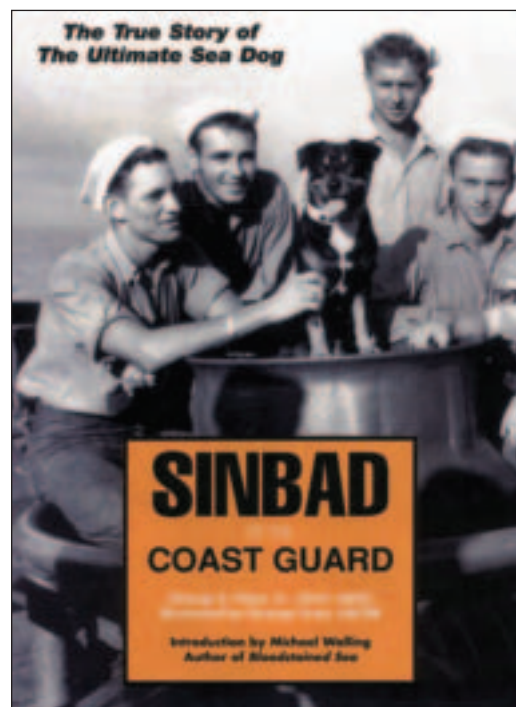
treated as just another member of the crew. Battles and hurricanes never dulled his love of standing on the heaving deck with spray breaking over his wiry body. To Coast Guardsmen and sailors all over the world he was a hero and a real salty dog!

Appropriately, Sinbad's story was told by a fellow member of the Coast Guard, Chief George F. Foley, Jr., while the fine pictures were drawn by the outstanding Coast Guard Reserve artist, George Gray.

This new edition, the first in 60 years, adds photos of Sinbad, information about the Campbell, and an Introduction by Mike Walling, author of "Bloodstained Sea, The U.S. Coast Guard in the Battle of the Atlantic 1941-1944."

Neither the U.S. Coast Guard nor The Reservist endorse these items. This article is published as a service to our readers.

Also Available
Sinbad of the Coast Guard™ 10" tall plush toy.
\$12.95



It is available online or direct:
www.flathammockpress.com
or www.mikewalling.com
Flat Hammock Press
5 Church Street
Mystic, CT 06355
1-860-572-2722
Price is \$16.95



Advancements

Effective May 1, 2005

From Enlisted Reserve Advancement Announcement (ERAA) No. 05-05, ALCGPERSCOM 035/05 (R 201333 APR 05). Last names can sometimes be cutoff if they exceed eight characters. Questions should be directed to YNC Jeff Pilkington, jpilkington@hrc.uscg.mil or 785-339-3410.

BOATSWAIN'S MATE(BM)

BM1 M REDMOND
BM1 K LEVERICH
BM1 J HARCZAK
BM2 D KRAKOWSK
BM2 I BUCS
BM2 R KILPATRI
BM2 L PACHECO
BM2 G JONES
BM2 M BIANCA
BM2 R ALBIN
BM2 J STUBBLEFI
BM2 R BRYANT
BM2 M MURRAY
BM2 C COLQUITT
BM3 J MCDONOUGH

FOOD SERVICE SPECIALIST(FS)

FS1 C HAYNES
FS1 M ALSTON
FS1 J CONTI

GUNNERS MATE(GM)

GM2 R ENGLAND

HEALTH SERVICES TECHNICIAN(HS)

HS2 J LLORCA

MACHINERY TECHNICIAN(MK)

MKCM B DAWICKI
MKCS J CHRISTEN
MKC M CALLANAN
MKC W OVERSTRE
MKC M BAZZREA
MK1 P SEITZ
MK1 I MARCOTTE
MK1 A TERRY
MK1 C PIERCE

MK2 R SWARTZ
MK2 M MURCHISO
MK2 R BEARCE

MARINE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN(MST)

MST1 C MAIS
MST1 R LAPOINTE
MST2 S HUGHES
MST2 J ROBERGE

OPERATIONS SPECIALIST(OS)

OS2 D TRIMBLE
OS2 W BARROW

PORT SECURITY SPECIALIST(PS)

PS1 C ERWIN
PS1 R HAMPTON
PS1 T BLACK
PS1 R IICISKO

STOREKEEPER(SK)

SKC J RUUD

YEOMAN(YN)

YN2 P CASURA

Effective June 1, 2005

From Enlisted Reserve Advancement Announcement (ERAA) No. 06-05, ALCGPERSCOM 044/05 R 201635Z MAY 05).

BOATSWAIN'S MATE(BM)

BM1 D KRIKORIA
BM1 B WILLIAMS
BM1 E RUOT
BM1 J EVANS
BM1 A LAPLANTE
BM1 J MCCHESENE
BM2 J LAUGHLIN
BM2 D SNOVEL
BM2 B MCDUGAL

FOOD SERVICE SPECIALIST(FS)

FSC C COLVIN
FS1 B LIEBL
FS1 Z KELLER
FS1 K NAPIER

GUNNERS MATE(GM)

GM1 L KENNEDY

HEALTH SERVICES TECHNICIAN(HS)

HSC O SMEYKAL

INVESTIGATOR(IV)

IV1 A GARON
IV1 C ARNOLD

MACHINERY TECHNICIAN(MK)

MKCM F MARTINEZ
MKCS C KEEGAN
MKCS R KIEFT
MKC M HODSON
MKC R GLEASON
MK1 E MORENO
MK2 D RAUSCH
MK2 C MILLER

MARINE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN(MST)

MST1 J ALLENDOR
MST1 J REICHERT
MST2 L WATERS
MST2 C GOODY
MST2 A WILHOIT
MST2 C OLSON
MST2 J HABERMAN

OPERATIONS SPECIALIST(OS)

OS2 W WILLIAMS

PORT SECURITY SPECIALIST(PS)

PS1 D DEPPEN
PS1 M EMERY
PS1 M FLORES
PS1 J BORLAND

STOREKEEPER(SK)

SKC S MOORECOO
SK1 M MALOMAY
SK1 P TURNER
SK1 A CASILLAS

YEOMAN(YN)

YN2 C COLLINS

Photo courtesy LTJG Steve Upthegrove



Reservist Steve Upthegrove was promoted to O2 at LANT/D5 in Portsmouth, Va. Dec. 16. Exchanging the ENS boards for LTJG are Upthegrove's father, CWO4 Jim Upthegrove, left, and CAPT (now RDML) Robert Branham of LANTAREA, while CAPT Ben Thomason looks on. Upthegrove, who teaches at Florida Southern College, is serving on Title X recall orders in D5's Office of Search and Rescue.

Photo by MCPO Mark Allen, USCGR



Reserve Operations Specialist Jennifer (Graviss) Jensen, center, was pinned E-8 Dec. 1 at HQ. Doing the honors were CDR Stephen Nurre, left, and her husband, MCPO Gary Jensen, who retired on July 28 with over 26 years service.

Retirements

RET-1 (Retired With Pay)

MAY 2005

CAPT David M. Butler
CAPT Robert G. Frame
CAPT Carol A. Rivers
CDR William M. Amerman
CDR Robert S. Babcock
CDR Susan J. Comerford
CDR Robert P. Dick
CDR John C. Miller, Jr.
CDR Lewis Miller
LCDR Dennis L. Crosby
LCDR Joseph R. Ferri
LCDR Richard E. McCulley
LCDR Lawrence A. Oberg
LT James T. Hurly
CWO4 William F. Hett
CWO4 Douglas N. Kelly
PSCM Claude L. Haynes, III
BMCS George A. Eiskamp
BMC Ronald P. Foster
MKC James H. Barnhart
MKC Larry J. Bonnell
MKC Robert G. Owens
MKC Hunter L. Pinney
MSTC Ernest Torok
PSC Robert M. Downward
YNC Paulette G. Hooe
HS1 Dennis H. Johnson
PS1 Robert M. Meo
PS1 Edward J. Plankey
SK1 Warren D. Thomsen
YN1 Dora S. Delgado
MST2 Arthur H. Reker
PS2 Darwin G. Wandersee
SK3 Pearl B. Bonham

JUNE 2005

CAPT Salvatore Brillante
CAPT Ronald L. Davis
CDR Charles O. Davis
LCDR David A. Inskeep
LCDR William R. Kerivan
MKCM James J. Kozuch
MSTCS Charles K. McDowell
PACS Amleto M. Toscano
SKCS Karen R. Warner
BMC Richard Fashjian
OSC William L. Turner
BM1 Rudy E. Meurer
HS1 Ian Z. Heller
OS1 Keith M. Wright
PS1 David E. Ernest
PS1 Donald D. Fiscus
PS1 Luis Sanchez
PS1 Jerome Telfair
YN1 Linda C. Johnson
ET2 Jose G. Bulatao
PS2 Richard E. McGinty
SK2 Charles A. Shaklee

RET-2 (Retired Awaiting Pay)

DECEMBER 2004

OS1 Dennis F. Kujawa

MAY 2005

CWO4 William E. Mauter, MLCLANT
CWO4 Claude S. McIntosh, D5
MKCM Thomas J. Morris, D7
BMC David W. Gregory, D1
MKC Thomas A. Chatfield, CGPC
OSC Kimberly A. Matheres, D17
FS1 George R. Deleon, CGPC

FS1 Robert E. Reed, D11
IV1 Theodore J. Jarosak, CGIS
MK1 Randall K. Prosser, CGPC
PS1 Arthur R. Cervantes, CGPC
SK1 Kenneth W. Mayfield, D8
YN1 Josefina A. Bryant, CGPC
AET2 Michael D. Galley, MLCLANT
AET2 Russell C. Martin, CGPC
AST2 Lavester P. Miller, MLCLANT
GM2 Anthony W. Bloodworth, CGPC
SK3 Michael D. McGar, D11

JUNE 2005

CDR Matthew P. Bernard, D13
CDR Gregory R. Phillips, D11
CDR Michael Stanley, MLCAPAC
CWO3 Donald J. Rifkin, CGIS
FSCS William H. Baldwin, D13
MKCS Gerald P. Teeney, MLCLANT
MSTC Stephen P. Bagg, D7
MSTC Raymond A. Newlon, D5
OSCS Janet L. Ferritto, CGHQ
ETC Wesley R. Hoggard, MLCLANT
MKC Michael J. Ferreira, D1
PSC Edward P. Balisky, CGPC
SKC Claudia A. Mullen, D13
BM1 Gordon R. Cook, D13
DC1 Kelly J. McGregor, D13
IV1 Joseph R. Herbert, CGPC
MST1 John T. Bobo, D8
PS1 Charles E. Hall, Jr., D1
YN1 Cynthia Philippi, MLCAPAC
OS2 Lucien R. Bibeault Jr., CGPC
PS2 Kenneth C. Richardson, D11

Source: Ms. Lynn Couch, Personnel Service Center (RAS)



Photo courtesy MSTCS William Farrell, USCGR

CWO4 Martin J. Grozinski, left, is presented with a Coast Guard Achievement Medal by CAPT Glenn Wiltshire at Grozinski's retirement ceremony at Activities New York April 8. Grozinski served 37 years in the Coast Guard and Reserve.



Photo by CWO2 Edward J. Kruska, USCGR

LT Frank Ferritto and OSCS Janet Ferritto pause following their dual retirement ceremony June 17. The couple, who served a combined total of 49 years, held the ceremony in the Indian Treaty Room, Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, next to the White House in Washington, D.C. LT Ferritto had served on the Vice President's medical staff the last two years while the senior chief drilled at Headquarters.

• **CAPT Robert M. Bissey**, USCGR(Ret.), April 30, 2005, in Charleston, S.C. Survived by his spouse, Pauline. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery, Charleston, S.C.

• **CAPT Eugene H. Leavitt**, USCGR(Ret.), May 27, 2005, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Survived by his wife, Mina Leavitt. Interment St. Petersburg, Fla.

• **CAPT William C. Martin**, USCGR(Ret.), April 16, 2005, Coral Gables, Fla. Survived by wife, Ada L. Martin, of Coral Gables.

• **CDR William H. Perrott**, USCGR(Ret.), June 7, 2005, in Swamzey, N.H. Survived by his wife, Grace Perrott. Interment Virginia Beach, Va.

• **CDR Richard T. Whitney**, USCGR(Ret.), April 20, 2005, in Toledo, Ohio. Interment Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

• **LCDR Robert J. Bush**, USCGR(Ret.), April 29, 2005, in Mobile, Ala. Survived by his spouse, Mary Bush. Interment National Cemetery, Mobile, Ala.

• **CWO2 (ENG2) Frank C. Feeger**, USCGR(Ret.), March 26, 2005. Survived by spouse, Camile B. Feeger of Kingwood, Texas.

• **YNCM John Kerwin**, April 28, 2005, in Clearwater, Fla. In May 1958, Congress enacted Public Law 85-422, establishing paygrades E8 and E9. On Nov. 1, 1958, the Coast Guard advanced John Kerwin to paygrade E9, making YNCM Kerwin the very first master chief in the Coast Guard. Kerwin began his career Jan. 7, 1937 in New York City, serving aboard CGC Cayuga, followed by service in CGCs Cayuga and Chelan. He was discharged in 1940, but at the outbreak of World War II, he was drafted into the Army. However, his heart was with the Coast Guard and in January 1942, he rejoined the ranks of the USCG and reported to his unit in New York City. Over the next 20 years, Kerwin served at COTP Corpus Christi, CGC Mayflower, CGC Bigg, CGC Triton and in Okinawa. He concluded his career in the Third District Auxiliary Office where he achieved his advancement to E9 and on Nov. 8, 1962, retired. YNCM and his wife have three children, two of whom attained the rank of E9 while serving on active duty in the Air Force. ALCOAST 292/05.

• **DCCS Jonathan H. Butler**, USCGR(Ret.), June 12, 2005, Beaverton, Ore. Survived by his wife, Kay Butler.

• **MKCS John L. Pritchett**, USCGR(Ret.), April 17, 2005, Newport News, Va. Survived by wife, Barbara A. Pritchett, of Newport News, Va.

• **YNCS Irene E. Collette**, USCGR(Ret.), May 7, 2005, in Dearborn, Mich.

• **EMC Ladislav J. Burk**, USCGR(Ret.), April 23, 2005, in Palm Beach, Fla. Interment New York, N.Y.

• **MKC Robert J. Newell**, USCGR(Ret.), April 20, 2005.

• **PSC James R. Hand**, USCGR(Ret.), April 3, 2005. He served as a fireman for 33 years. In addition to his service in the CGR, he served in the Army from 1954-56, and was stationed in Germany. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; four children, James, Richard, Robert and John; five grandchildren. Interment Mt. Saint Mary's, Flushing, N.Y.

• **BM2 Stephen Belle**, USCG, 94, of Bayview, Wis. April 9, 2005. Born in Austria-Hungary, he came to the United States and Milwaukee when he was three. He entered the USCG in

November 1928 and attended basic training at Fort Trumbell, New London, Conn. He called joining the Coast Guard, "the best thing I ever did...I learned to say 'yes, sir' and 'no sir' and finally had someone telling me what to do and to do it right." He served on several pre-World War I Navy Destroyers on loan to the USCG and various wooden high speed picket boats used to patrol the New England coast to help enforce the 18th amendment (Prohibition). He played center on the

enlisted men's football team which beat the U.S. Marines to win the Coast Guard's first ever President's Cup Game. He also served at Coast Guard Base St. Petersburg, Fla. Discharged in November 1933, he worked for the Milwaukee Electric Rail and Electric Light Company as an electric streetcar and trolley mechanic until 1977. In his latter years, he was a familiar sight wearing his old "Cracker Jack" uniform and "blue flat hat" at local patriotic and military events. Survived by his wife of 48 years, Lorraine; father of Elizabeth; grandfather of five; great-grandfather of four. Memorial services with military honors were held Friday, April 15 at the Chapel at the Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chapel in Milwaukee. His body was donated to the Medical College of Wisconsin for medical research. He used to say, "They can have me when I'm gone, they can see how the body of this old man held up all these years." In lieu of flowers, memorials to a charity of your choice.

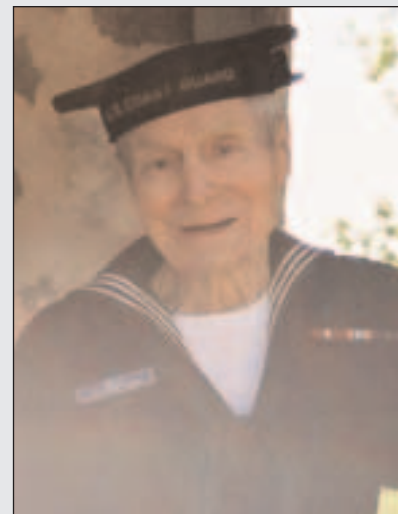
• **MK1 Leewood E. Tawes**, USCGR(Ret.), April 20, 2005, in Jacksonville, Fla. Survived by his widow, Pauline Tawes.

• **RD1 Earnest W. Bailey**, USCGR(Ret.), April 29, 2005, in Northville, N.Y. Survived by his widow, Charlotte Bailey. Interment pending Saratoga, N.Y.

• **FN Alex Thompson**, May 11, 2005, of CGC Resolute, while TAD in Portsmouth, Va. for training before deploying to Coast Guard Forces Bahrain. Services were held May 13 by his Coast Guard Force Bahrain and CGC Resolute shipmates. Interment in his hometown of Rochelle, Ill. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established at the 1st National Bank and Trust in Rochelle, 340 May Mart Dr., Rochelle IL 61608.

• **Stewart S. Edward**, Lighthouse Keeper (Ret.), May 23, 2005, in Grand Haven, Mich. Interment Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

• **Mona B. (Breen) Nyman**, USCG SPAR, 85, April 9, 2005, in San Juan Capistrano, Calif. She enlisted in the Coast Guard SPARs in 1943, attending boot camp at Hunter College and Yeoman School in Oklahoma City. She served in Cleveland and Long Beach, Calif. After the war, she took advantage of veteran's benefits to earn a degree in education. She was the third president of the Coast Guard Unit #92 in Southern California. In latter years, she was a volunteer at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital. Survived by two sons, Ted and William, one daughter, Janice; her husband and another son preceded her in death. Services were held at St. Norbert Catholic Church in Orange, Calif. Interment Holy Sepulcher Catholic Cemetery. Cards can be sent to the family at 1168 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101.



Bravo Zulu!

Greetings shipmates! It is my sincere hope that this article finds each of you in good spirits and good health. One thing I am confident about is most, if not all, of you — whether it be in a drilling status, Title 10, ADSW or EAD — are making a significant contribution to the security of the United States by supporting critical Coast Guard missions at home and abroad.

I know this because in the past nine months, I have witnessed first-hand your efforts around the country and the world. My travels have taken me to Sector Guam, MSO Houston-Galveston, Sector San Francisco, ISC Juneau, Group Atlantic City, Port Security Unit 308, Group Milwaukee, PSU 312, Sector Baltimore, MSO Port Arthur, Training Center Petaluma, ISC Miami, MSO Huntington, ISC Seattle, Coast Guard Yard, MSO Valdez, Group Honolulu, MSO Anchorage, PSU 307, ISC Kodiak, Training Center Cape May and a few places in-between.

At each location, I see the same thing — reservists shoulder to shoulder with their active duty counterparts standing the watch: enforcing security zones, implementing the Maritime Transportation Security Act, performing security and positive control boardings, and whatever else is required. From each command, I hear the same praise for the professionalism, experience and enthusiasm brought by the Reserve workforce. Without fail the words, “We could not do our mission without them,” find their way into the conversation. While I am never surprised by these unsolicited comments, I am always humbled and inspired by what you do.

Accepting the perils of focusing on a few, I would like to give special mention to some individual members and units I have encountered who I think are more than a fair reflection of what you have collectively accomplished this past year.

Port Security Specialist Donald C. Royal, District 17 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year for 2004. Petty Officer Royal, following a deployment in Kuwait with Port Security Unit 309, was recalled to MSO Valdez, Alaska in March 2004 to assist with implementation of the Maritime Safety and Security Act. While PO Royal’s contributions as Supervisor of the MSO’s Homeland Security Department are far too numerous to list here, I believe the following excerpt from his nomination package is particularly noteworthy. “PO Royal’s contributions helped MSO (Valdez) receive the D17 Unit Award for Operational Excellence, which centered largely on the unit’s many Homeland Security accomplishments.”

MSO Houston-Galveston, Texas, winner of the 2004 RADM Bennett “Bud” Sparks Award (see ALCOAST 341/05). During my visit to the unit in March, I witnessed first-hand the level of seamless integration and cohesion

the command has forged between its active and reserve components. For example, the unit dramatically improved the readiness of assigned reservists during FY04, going from no qualified Reserve Boarding Officers, Boarding Team Members, Coxswains or Boat Crewmen to five BOs, seventeen BTMs, three Boat Crew and four members nearing Coxswain qualification. This is a remarkable achievement requiring a significant commitment from the MSO’s active and reserve personnel.



Port Security Specialist Joseph P. Gatto, 2004 Coast Guard Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year. Petty Officer Gatto is assigned to Sector Boston, Mass. As noted in the awards ceremony program, “PO Gatto is an integral and valued member of Sector Boston’s Port Security Division. He has provided in-depth law enforcement training to both active and reserve personnel and engaged in a variety of operational missions that significantly contributed to the unit’s high level of readiness.”

The final three members I wish to mention are recent graduates of Reserve Chief Petty Officer Academy Class 19. While I did not meet these three Chiefs at their unit or in an operational setting, I feel their willingness to embrace professional development in an effort to improve themselves is noteworthy. They are: **Chief Rashaun Morris**, ISC Boston, Mass., recipient of the CPOA Altus Tendo Award; **Chief Karl Brobst**, Station Barnegat Light, N.J., winner of the Academy’s Fitness Award; and **Chief Bernard Melekian**, MSST 91103, San Pedro, Calif., selected by his classmates to receive the Spirit of the Chief Award.

In closing, let me thank each and every one of you for the voluntary contributions you make to your unit, your service and your country. You have my highest respect and admiration. Bravo Zulu!

By MCPO Jeffrey D. Smith, USCGR
Master Chief of the Reserve Force
 jdsmith@comdt.uscg.mil

NEW YORK, New York (May 25, 2005) —
Coast Guard air and surface assets
secure naval ships enforcing security
zones, in addition to patrolling the
waterways of New York and New Jersey
during Fleet Week 2005.

USCG photo by PA3 Susan Blake



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Personnel Service Center
444 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

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